

Day 3

Observation

On The Conduct Of Law Enforcement Personnel During The Nationwide #endbadgovernance Protests In Nigeria

CLEEN FOUNDATION
Justice Sector Reform

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

TETRA TECH
International Development

Background

The impact of the successful first- and second-days Nationwide protest against Badgovernance crippled economic activities across the states leading to huge loss of financial and material resources in Nigeria. It grounded all economic activities in the country including locations where the protest did not hold as citizens were afraid of their lives. This has elicited government reactions through the security agencies. The Inspector General of Police issued a red alert to all police commands and divisions in the country and mandated all police personnel to wear a red arm badge potentially raising the force level likely to be meted out to Nationwide protesters in Nigeria. The IGP's order was followed by the military threat that the Armed Forces will not hesitate to intervene once the need arises. The Armed Forces threat was carried out with the full deployment of the military on the third day of the protest. Furthermore, various state governments reacted differently to the development on the Nationwide protest in their states based on the nature of the protest in the state. Some of the states that recorded violent protests, imposed curfew in some areas and banned gathering in the state. Other states that experienced peaceful protest commended the protesters and urged them to maintain peace and give room for dialogue.

The nationwide #EndBadGovernance protest in Nigeria entered third day, 3rd August 2024 with great concern on government high handedness in her response to curtail the protest. The third day witnessed full military deployment in policing the nationwide protest. Nigeria Army cordoned the 3-Armed zone and were deployed to critical infrastructures. The military does not have equipment for crowd management. The military has equipment for mass casualties. Already protesters have been killed by law enforcement personnel and the involvement of the military will increase the number of casualties. The EndSars protest experience of 20th October 2020

Background

is still very fresh in the memories of Nigerians with regards to the involvement of the military that led to killings of several peaceful protesters in Lagos state. Consequently, the findings of the third day of the protest correlates with the above development in government response approach to curtail the nationwide protest in Nigeria.

Purpose of the Report

The primary purpose of this report is to monitor, evaluate and present in real time key observations emerging from the conduct and activities of Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) and personnel deployed to oversee the #EndBadGovernance protests in Nigeria. This report aims to provide a comprehensive assessment of how security and law enforcement officers have managed the protests, focusing on their adherence to legal standards, respect for human rights, and effectiveness in preventing the breakdown of law and order across the country. By documenting and analyzing the actions of law enforcement officers, this report seeks to identify best practices, highlight areas for improvement, and offer recommendations to enhance the capacity, performance and effectiveness of law enforcement personnel in handling peaceful demonstrations and protests in Nigeria. Ultimately, this report strives to ensure accountability, transparency, protection and promotion of citizens' rights during times of civil unrest.

Methodology

The methodology for this report involves a systematic and structured triangulation approach to monitoring the conduct and activities of Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) during the #EndBadGovernance protests across Nigeria. The following steps outline the key components of the methodology:

1. Deployment of Trained Observers:
CLEEN Foundation deployed a network of trained observers to all the states across the country. A total of 109 observers were deployed across the 36 states and the federal capital Territory.

2. Development of Monitoring Tool:
CLEEN developed a Standard Law Enforcement Monitoring Tool integrated into an electronic version to collect real time data from the field. This tool was designed to capture quality data on the conduct and actions of law enforcement personnel during the protests.

3. Data Collection Process:
Observers utilized the monitoring tool to provide regular updates on the conduct of LEAs. The tool allowed for the recording of various indicators, including the use of force, adherence to human rights standards, engagement with protesters, and any incidents of misconduct or abuse of rights observed. Secondary data tracked by the CLEEN Foundation National Protest Situation Room were reviewed, verified and triangulated to ensure credibility before including in the report.

4. Observer Composition:
The observers included a diverse group of professionals and members of the Civil Society community from across the country. Their backgrounds ensured a comprehensive and unbiased perspective on the events as they

unfolded.

5. Data Transmission and Analysis:

Observers submitted their reports in real time, ensuring timely and accurate data submission and collection. The data was compiled, analyzed, and reviewed by a team of experts to identify trends, patterns, and areas of concern.

6. Verification and Validation:

To ensure the reliability and validity of the collected data, cross-referencing with other sources such as media reports, eyewitness accounts, and official statements was conducted. This triangulation method helped to confirm the accuracy of the data generated.

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1. Spread of the Protest

The data from the CLEEN Foundation National Protest Monitoring Situation Room indicates that the day three protests were held across 10 states and Abuja. The states that recorded Nationwide protest on Day Three, 3rd August 2024 are: Delta, Edo and Rivers – South-South, Lagos and Osun – South West, Kebbi, Sokoto, Kano and Katsina – North West, Plateau and Abuja – North Central. The six states in the North East recorded no protest like the five states in the Southeast. This is a further decline in the spread since 1st August 2024 that the nationwide protest started. From 29 states on the first day to 13 states on the second day and 10 states on the third day. One of the factors is the undemocratic response of the government to the nationwide protest through deployment of the military, law enforcement personnel shooting live bullets at protesters, killing of protesters, declaration of curfew, bombardment of protesters with teargas and serious assaults by the law enforcement personnel on protesters across the states.

2. Presence of Law Enforcement Personnel

The military has fully been deployed to curtail the nationwide protest. Similarly, the Law enforcement agencies have maintained their deployment across all the strategic locations in all the states across the country. The military were seen taking over the Three Arms Zone in Abuja where the seat of power resides in the country.

3. Description of Protesters

The Observers reported only the one group of protesters, the End Bad Governance protesters in the 10 states and Abuja. The Pro-government protesters observed on the first day of the protest were not seen on the third day of the protest in the states that recorded protest. However, the presence of juveniles were still observed in the Nation Wide Protest in Nigeria.

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4. Policing the Nationwide Protests

Following the military deployment and the Red Alert order from the Inspector General of the Police, CLEEN Foundation Observers reported increase in use of force by the law enforcement personnel against the protesters.

5. Attack on Journalist and Protesters:

According to reports received by CLEEN Foundation National Protest Situation Room, law enforcement personnel shot live bullets and teargas at journalists covering the nationwide protest in Abuja. In Warri, Delta state, our observer reported that on Day one, the peaceful Protesters were attacked by thugs reportedly sponsored by government chanting that those who want to protest should leave their land and travel to their place to protest. The thugs beat up protesters under the watchful eyes of security agents who looked the other way, the violence was unrestricted and some lawyers were victims. It took the intervention of some Army personnel to apprehend some of the thugs about five of them who were taken to the police station and the NBA has decided to make a scapegoat of these ones.

On day three those who summoned courage to come out were asked to protest for only 30mins to 1 hour by the local government authorities and disperse. “We had to encourage the few persons to disperse when we noticed no security protection was guaranteed.” Says one of our observers in Warri. As a result of the harassment, there's somewhat apathy towards the protest in Warri as it is now obvious that those who choose to protest were not guaranteed of protection.

6. Accountability of Arrested Protesters

CLEEN Foundation National Protest Situation Room has noted the total number of 681 arrested protesters across the country, according to figures from the Nigeria Police Force, however the figure is in contrast of other

available figures tracked by the CLEEN Foundation National Protest Situation Room that indicates over one thousand protesters were arrested.

7. Road Blocks

CLEEN Foundation Observers reported no road blocks in the 10 states that recorded protest.

8. Looting and Vandalism

There were no incidents of looting and vandalism on the third day of protests across the 10 states and Abuja.

9. Killing of protesters and security personnel

New killing of protesters were recorded in Kano state. A total of 10 protesters were killed mainly juveniles. This has increased the total number of verified protesters shot to death by Law enforcement personnel since the protest started to 23 deaths.

10. Arrest/Shooting of Protesters

The CLEEN Foundation National Protest Situation Room received the reports of arrested protesters in Kano state and Abuja on the third day of protest. Law enforcement personnel shot live bullet and teargas at the protesters that caused serious casualties as 10 protesters died in kano state. A woman collapsed in Abuja and was resuscitated.

11. Curfews

The Curfews is still in place especially in Jigawa state where it was strictly enforced preventing the protesters that gathered to protest on the 3rd day of the nationwide protest.

Recommendations

CLEEN Foundation makes the following recommendations:

1. The federal government should deescalate disproportionate use of force by law enforcement personnel. The direct shooting of live bullets at protesters should be condemned and victims compensated.

2. There is the need for proper record keeping of arrested protesters to avoid a repeat of missing persons allegedly arrested during EndSars protest in Nigeria.

3. CLEEN Foundation wish to continue its emphasis on the importance of respect for the rights of arrested protesters. The Inspector General of the Police should ensure that the rights of the arrested protesters are not violated. Any allegation against the protesters should follow the rule of law as provided in the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015.

4. The government involvement of the Military in policing the Nationwide protest is highly condemned despite the Police demonstration of enough capacity to handle the situation across the country. The military should be withdrawn to avoid further increase in killing of protesters.

5. CLEEN Foundation wishes to reiterate her call to protesters to remain peaceful and avoid taking laws into their hands. STOP the use of juveniles as a shield.

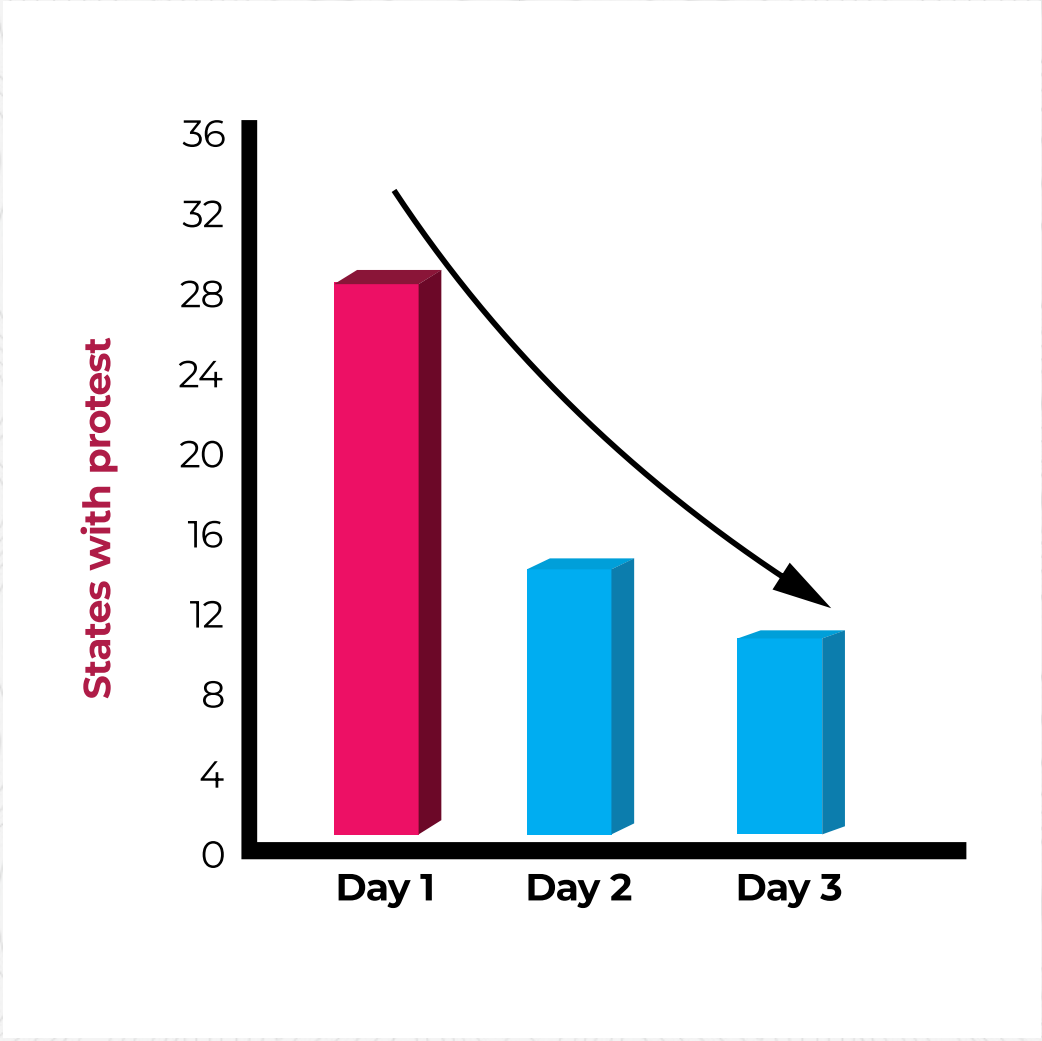
6. Hospitals should ensure that protesters who have sustained injuries during the period are well taken care of, lives of victims of gun shots should be saved first before demanding police reports.

Recommendations

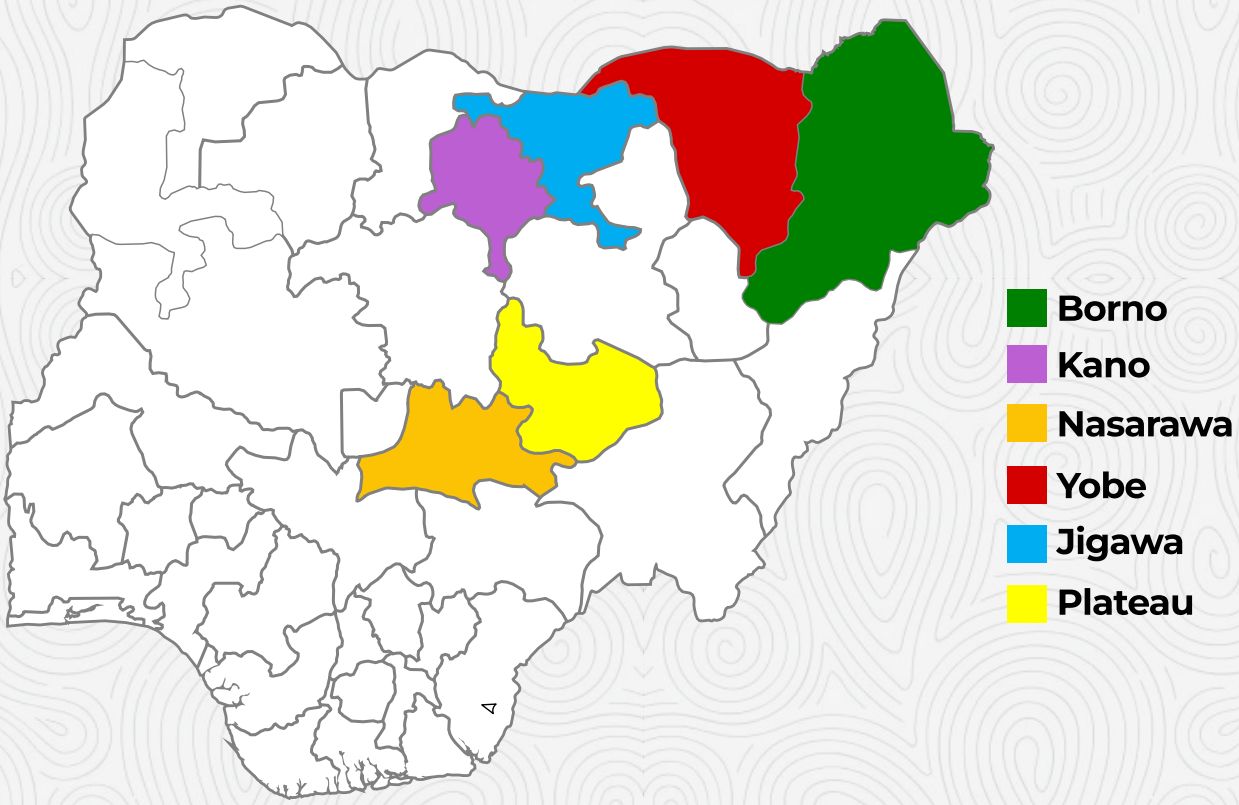
7. Civil society organizations and other stakeholders should continue to monitor the protests closely, document and disseminate their observations.

8. The National Human Rights Commission and Nigeria Bar Association should ensure that there is justice for violation of the rights of protesters by law enforcement agencies.

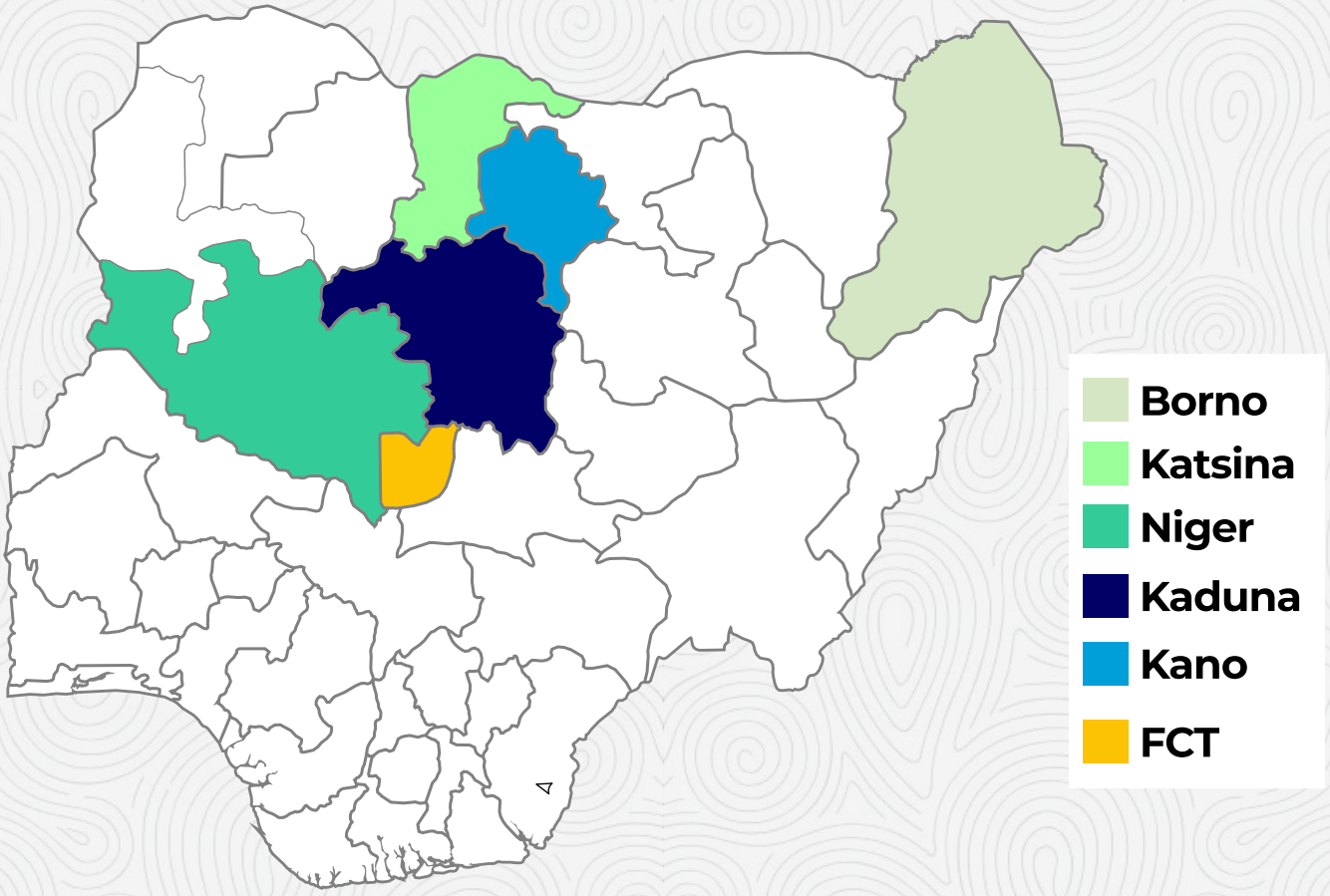
STATES WITH PROTEST



CURFEW DECLARED BY STATE



STATES WITH FATALITIES



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