

Day 4

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 ongoing #Endbadgovernance protest in Nigeria has entered its fourth day, driven by widespread dissatisfaction with the current economic hardship plaguing the nation. Nigerians are grappling with soaring inflation, unemployment, and a depreciating currency, all of which have exacerbated the daily struggles of millions. The government's inability to effectively address these issues has fueled public anger and frustration, leading to a nationwide call for better governance, transparency, and accountability. Although there has been a decline in the number of protesters in some states, especially in the southern part of Nigeria.

Amidst the protests, an unusual development has been reported by some of CLEEN's observers, the sudden appearance of Russian flags among some protesters in the northern states. This unexpected display has sparked speculation and debate about its significance. Some suggest it might be a symbolic gesture reflecting discontent with Western influence and a desire for alternative international alliances. Others view it as a provocative act, potentially signaling deeper geopolitical undercurrents or external influences within the protest movement. Regardless of its origin, the presence of these flags has added a complex layer to the ongoing demonstrations.

The protest, now on its fourth day, shows no signs of abating even after the national broadcast by President Bola Tinubu. Majority of the protesters were not satisfied with the President's speech as it was alleged to not address any of the grievances that gave rise to the Nationwide protests. The resilience and determination of the protesters underscore the depth of their grievances and their demand for meaningful change. As the situation continues to evolve, a vast majority of Nigerians hope that the government will consider the prayers of the protesters and bring an end to the protests

Background

on the streets of Nigeria.

Finally, as much as the right to assembly is an incontrovertible right of every Nigerian, the protesters must be careful, peaceful and not allow the exercise of their democratic right be hijacked by criminal groups.

Purpose of the Report

The primary purpose of this report is to monitor and evaluate 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 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 LEAs, this report seeks to identify best practices, highlight areas for improvement, and offer recommendations to enhance the capacity and performance of law enforcement in handling peaceful demonstrations and protests. Ultimately, this report strives to ensure accountability, transparency, and the protection of citizens' rights during times of civil unrest.

Methodology

The methodology for this report involves a systematic and structured 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 Observers:
CLEEN Foundation deployed a network of trained observers to major cities across the country where the protests were most prominent. These cities included Lagos, Abuja, Port Harcourt, Kano, and Enugu, among others.

2. Development of Monitoring Tool:
CLEEN developed a specialized Law Enforcement Officers' Conduct Monitoring Tool integrated into the CLEENMobileApp. This tool was designed to capture real-time data on the behavior and actions of law enforcement personnel during the protests.

3. Data Collection:
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.

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:

Methodology

Observers submitted their reports through the CLEENMobileApp, ensuring timely and accurate data collection. The data was then 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 observations.

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1. Spread of the Protest

The spread of the nationwide protest remained the same with day 3 of the protests as witnessed across the ten states of the federation. The data from the CLEEN Foundation National Protest Monitoring Situation Room showed that protests were held across 10 states and Abuja. The states that recorded Nationwide protest on Day four, 4th August, 2024 are: Delta, Edo, Bayelsa and Rivers – South-South, Lagos and Osun – South West, Kano and Kaduna – North West, Plateau and Abuja – North Central. There was no protest in the six states in the North East and the five states in the Southeast. The spread of the protest has been on continuous decline from 29 states to 13 states to 10 states for day 3 and 4 respectively. Some of the contributing factors to the decline include the deployment of the military, shooting of live bullets by security and law enforcement personnel at protesters, killing of protesters, declaration of curfew by state governors, bombardment of protesters with teargas and assault of protesters by law enforcement personnel across the states.

2. Conduct of the Law Enforcement Personnel

Data received from observers suggests that law enforcement personnel are largely approachable and courteous across the states monitored. The data also shows that in states with high propensity for violence like Borno, Kano, Jigawa, Yobe, Kaduna, law enforcement personnel were seen to be on red alert which has likewise affected their disposition towards protesters.

3. Presence of Law Enforcement Personnel

The Law enforcement agencies has maintained their deployment across all the strategic locations in all the states across the country. According to the reports from the trained CLEEN Foundation Observers, Law Enforcement Agencies were seen at strategic locations in the various states across the country.

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4. Description of Protesters

The Observers reported only the one group of protesters, the End Bad Governance protesters in the 6 states and Abuja. The Pro-government protesters observed on the first day of the protest were not seen on the second day of the protest in the states that recorded protest on the second day. However, the presence of juveniles was still observed in the Nationwide Protests in Nigeria.

5. Accountability of Arrested Protesters

Reports by CLEEN Foundation has continued to indicate increase in the number of arrested protesters each day of the protest however, the Nigeria Police is yet to account for the number of new protesters arrested by the Lw enforcement agencies. The official figure still stands at 681 arrested protesters according to the Police.

6. Road Blocks

Observers noted traffic movements in the ten states that recorded protests on the fourth day.

7. Looting and Vandalism

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

8. Killing of protesters and security personnel

The number of verified protesters shot to death by security and law enforcement personnel since the protest started remained same 23 deaths, no killing was recorded on the fourth day of the protests across the ten states.

9. Arrest/Shooting of Protesters

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The CLEEN Foundation National Protest Situation Room received reports from the Observers that the security and law enforcement personnel arrested protesters across the states since the protests started on 1st August 2024. Similarly, there were reports of shooting and injuring protesters since the commencement of the protests. For instance, at Madalla junction along Abuja-Kaduna express way, a protester was shot by law enforcement personnel and he was rushed to the hospital for treatment.

10. Curfews

More states declared curfews in response to the effect of the protests. Plateau and Kaduna states declared curfew at the end of day four of the protests. The curfew is a measure of curtailing the negative effect of the protests and escalation. The list of states that has declared curfew includes- Kano, Taraba, Borno, Niger, Kaduna and Plateau states respectively.

Recommendations

CLEEN Foundation makes the following recommendations in view of the above observations:

1. The Military should ignore the call for the takeover of democratic governance in the country which is reflected in the latest demand by some section of the protesters.

2. The intelligence community should provide additional actionable intelligence to prevent and contain any form of foreign intervention, leading to a more robust security response.

3. The number of protesters arrested by the Nigeria Police Force should be made public. This should be updated daily for transparency and accountability.

4. The Nigeria Police Force should ensure the rights of arrested protesters are not violated; due diligence should be followed as provided by the extant laws of the country.

5. The government should ensure the Military stays away from policing the nationwide protests as the Police have demonstrated capacity to handle the situation across the country. The military should avoid making inflammatory statements.

6. 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.

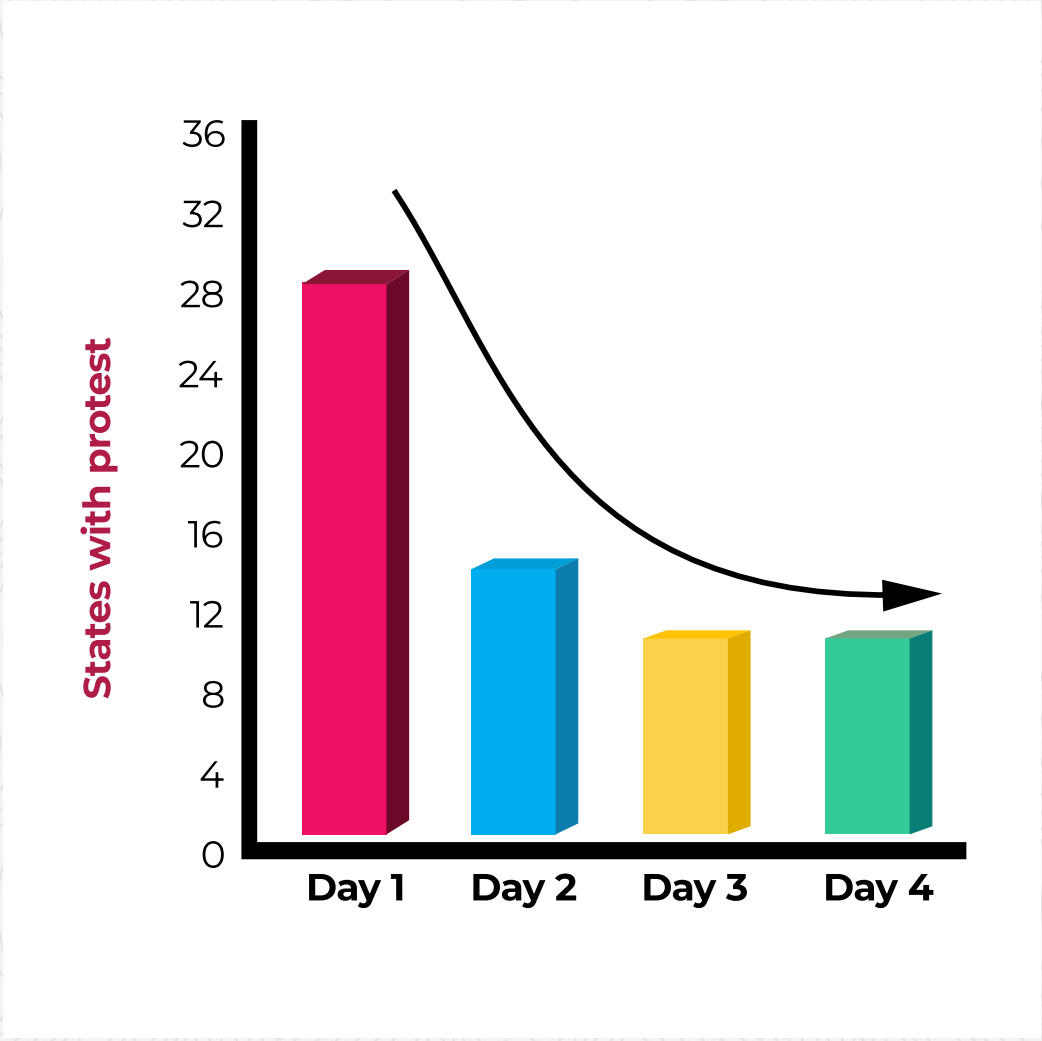
Recommendations

7. 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 for police reports.

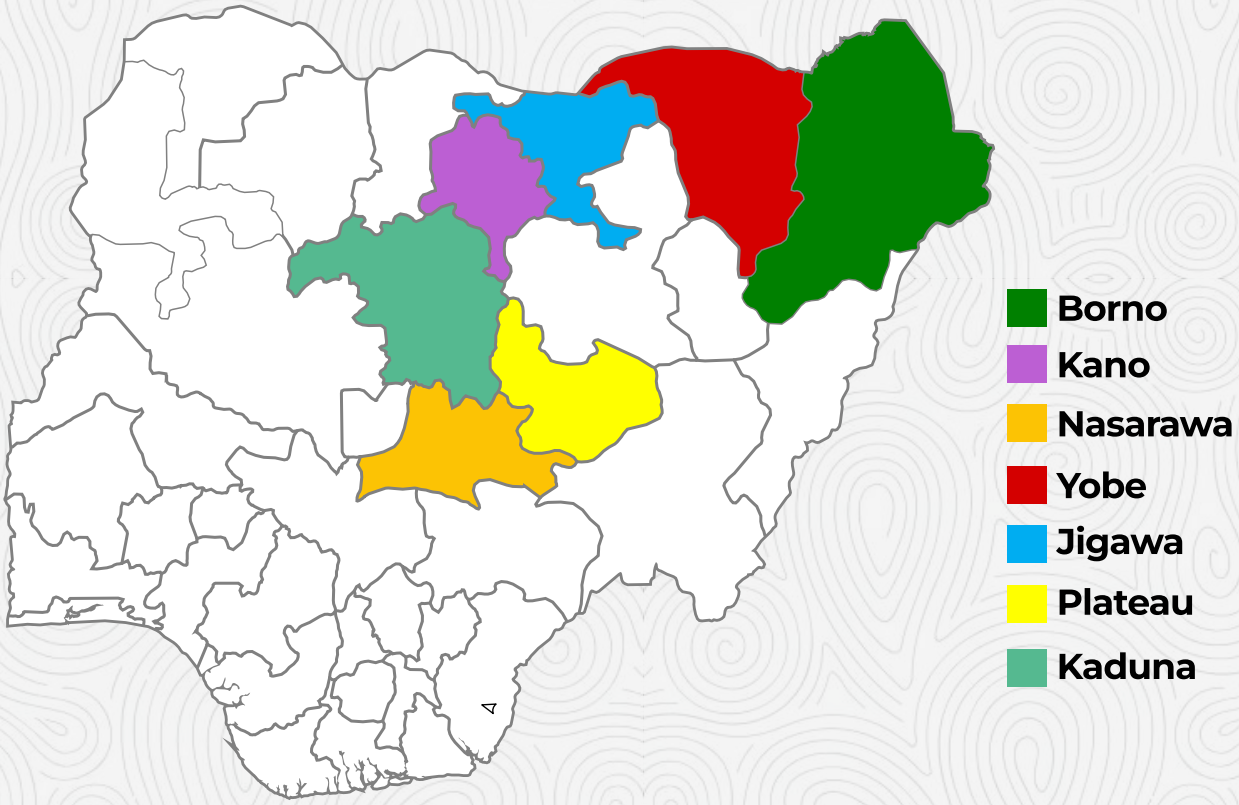
8. Civil society organizations and other stakeholders should continue to monitor the protests closely, document and disseminate their observations.

9. 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.

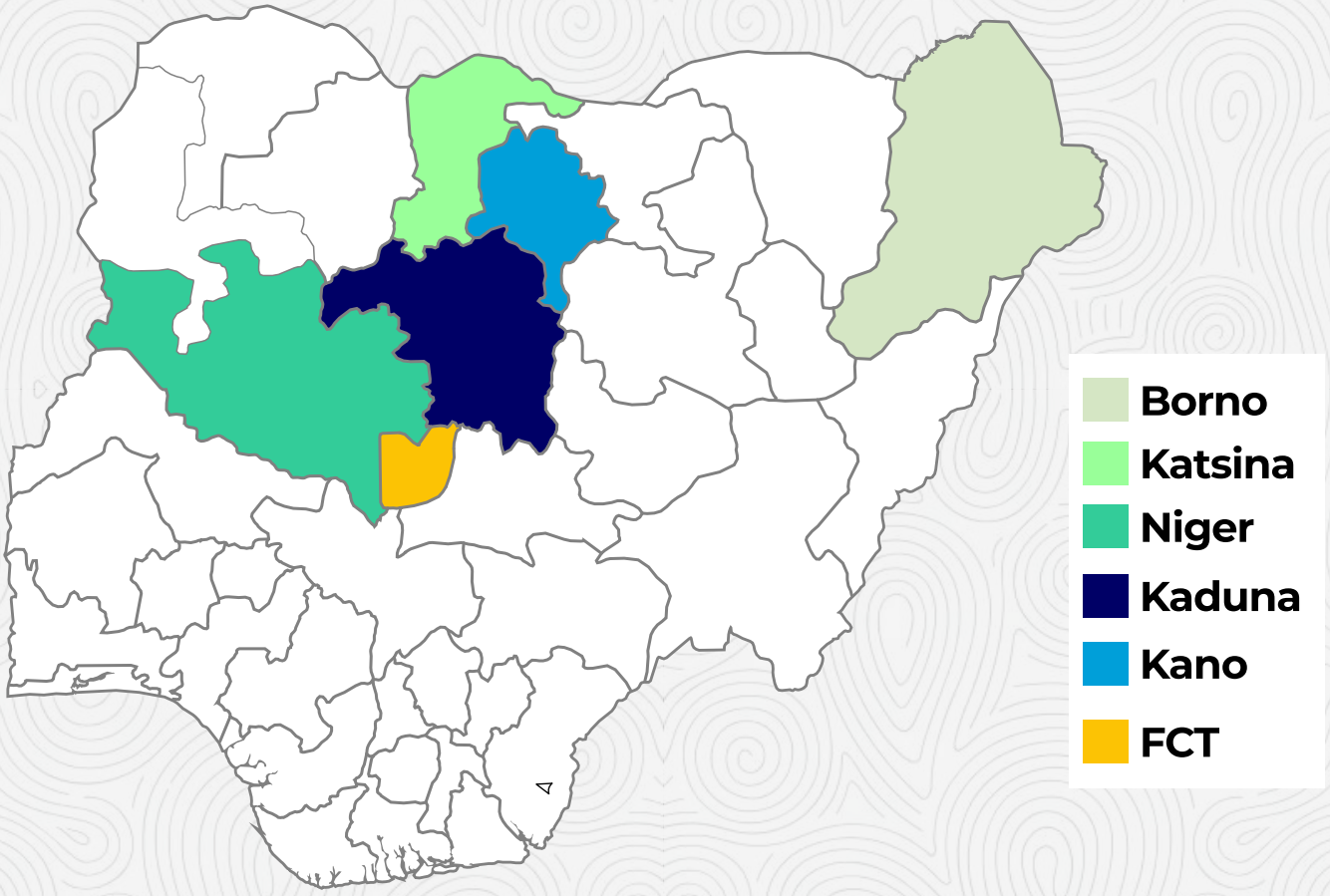
STATES WITH PROTEST



CURFEW DECLARED BY STATE



STATES WITH FATALITIES



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