

Monday 13th February 2023

This report documents incidents of hate speech and election atrocities for the week of **February 6 - February 12 2023**.

Preamble

Despite the repeated assurance from security agencies of ensuring a safe and secure environment for the conduct of the 2023 election, the polity continues to be heated up with several attacks on politically exposed persons and security agents in the weeks running up to the elections. Our tracking for the past week records at least 18 violent incidents with at least 22 people were brutally murdered. The troubling trend of attacks on politically exposed people continued with an increase in voter intimidation, especially in regions with a Biafran history and a particular cause for concern in Lagos where supporters of the Labour Party were brutally attacked in an attempt to disrupt the grand finale of the party's campaigns in Lagos.

Attacks on INEC, Police Personnel & Facilities:

- 1. February 5, 2023:** A retired police officer along with 2 others were killed in an attack on Maiyanga community, in Jos Plateau state.
- 2. February 9, 2023:** Gunmen ambushed and killed 4 military officers, in Kwale, Ndokwa West Council.
- 3. February 11, 2023:** The advance team of the Governor Ifeanyi Okowa of Delta state, who is also the Vice Presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDD), was attacked by gunmen at Ihiala Local Government Area of Anambra State on their way to Abia State. The incident led to the death of 3 Police officers — Inspectors Lucky Aleh, Celestine Nwadiokwu, and Jude Obuh.
- 4. February 11, 2023:** The Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of Paiko police station, Superintendent of Police Mukhtar Abbas and 4 other policemen were killed by bandits in Niger state when they were mobilized to counter the attack on the Kwakuti Djadugbe Market.

Attacks on politically exposed persons:

- 1. February 6, 2023:** There were coordinated attacks on the homes of some PDP chieftains in Cross River State. During the attacks, the homes of Mr. Nsa Ekeng the State Organizing Secretary of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Francis Effanga - the Director General of the party's southern senatorial candidate campaign council, Ekpo Okon, Elder Effiom Edet Ekpo – Atimbo West ward chairman, Innocent Atsenudiara – a Supervisor in Ibar South LGA and Amanso Okon Etim – PDP youth chapter leader for Atimbo East Ward. Other politicians affected are Edet Okon Etim - the youth leader of Atimbo West ward, Emmanuel Eyo of Atimbo West Ward and Saviour Maurice – PDP Vice chairman of Imbo West ward.
- 2. February 7, 2023:** Gunmen attacked the residence of the Spokesperson of the Coalition of United Political Parties (CUPP) Ikenga Ugochinyere in Akokwa, Imo state, vandalizing what was left of the properties from a previous attack on January 14, 2023.
- 3. February 8, 2023:** A political candidate in Njikoka Local Government Area of Anambra State, received a call from hoodlums telling him that that he was one of the politicians that they plan to assassinate. He was directed to pay a certain amount of money to avert his impending death. Thereafter, he made an official report to the DSS and Nigerian Police, on the incident.
- 4. February 9, 2023:** The Director-General of PDP Presidential Campaign, Dr. Abiye Sekibo was attacked in Trans-Amadi area of Port Harcourt of Rivers state. February 9, 2023: The campaign office of Hon. John Abraham Godson, who is the senatorial candidate of the African Democratic Congress (ADC) for Abia Central senatorial zone, located at No 1 Ojike Street in Umuahia North LGA of Abia State was vandalized. for Abia Central senatorial zone.

5. February 10, 2023: 6 members of the All People’s Congress (APC) were injured in an attack for allegedly putting on a fez-cap with the APC logo in Ifetedo town headquarters of Ife South LGA, Osun state.

Attacks at Campaign Rallies:

1. February 7, 2023: Thugs reportedly disrupted an All Progressives Congress (APC) rally in Omuma, Rivers state. Although no life was lost, vehicles and canopies at the rallies were destroyed.

2. February 11, 2023: Supporters of the Labour Party (LP) were attacked by thugs in Lagos state during the party’s rally. The attacks happened around Jakande in the Lekki area of Lagos and outside the Tafawa Balewa Square (TBS) which was the venue of the rally.

3. February 11, 2023: One Halliru Lafka was killed at Maigatari Local Government Area of Jigawa State. The death occurred after a clash between supporters of the PDP and APC during the campaign rally of the PDP in the state.

Voter Intimidation/Suppression and Vandalization of Campaign Materials

1. February 6, 2023: Posters bearing the images of Late Dim Odumegwu Ojukwu, Mazi Nnamdi Kanu with the threatening caption - “No Nigerian election of any kind is allowed to hold in Biafra land anymore” were circulated in Umulam, Okigwe LGA of Imo State.

2. February 10, 2023: A man wearing a PDP campaign shirt was attacked along Enugu Road by Total roundabout within the Catholic Cathedral, Nsukka LGA, Enugu State. His attackers accused him of vandalizing the campaign posters of the Presidential Candidate of the Labour Party.

3. February 11, 2023: The Baale of Gbara in Jakande, Eti-Osa Local Government Area of Lagos State, in a leaked audio published by Sahara Reporters, was heard threatening to deal with residents if they fail to vote for his party, the APC. He allegedly said “Vote for My Party, APC Or Stay Away from My Community”.

4. February 11, 2023: Traders in Eko Spare Parts Dealers’ market in Lagos Island, Lagos State, were threatened by thugs not to attend the Peter Obi presidential campaign at Tafawa Balewa Square. Those wearing Labour Party shirts and bangles were told to remove them or be flogged while they were instructed to ensure that All Progressive Congress (APC) party wins the election.

Hate Speech

1. February 7, 2023: The Director of New Media/Special Projects of the All-Progressives Congress (APC) presidential campaign council, Femi Fani-Kayode in a Tweet on his official Twitter handle openly threatened to bury members of the presidential council of the opposition parties in what he termed the ‘election battle’.

2. February 9, 2023: One of the spokespersons for the Atiku Abubakar Presidential Campaign Council, Daniel Bwala, in an interview on Channels TV referred to the Presidential Candidate of the Labour Party as an opportunist and not the revolutionary leader he is making the people to believe he is.

3. February 9, 2023: At the formal launching of “Eko O Ni Baje” 10,000 Foot Soldiers for Tinubu-Shettima/Sanwo-Olu-Hamzat, held at The Haven, GRA Ikeja, Lagos state, Nigeria’s Minister for Works and Housing, Mr. Babatunde Raji Fashola, referred to the Lagos State Gubernatorial Candidate of the PDP as ‘an inexperienced cameraman who lacks knowledge of governance’.

The Impact of Reported Election Atrocities on the Civic Space

The increased threats and voter intimidation is worrisome as people are becoming scared to attend political gatherings or identify as supporters of political parties or certain candidates for fear of violence.

Conclusion



The rate of pre-election violence in the lead-up to the 2023 general election has become a worrisome trend.

1



Across various parties in different parts of the country, politicians and their supporters have continued to be targeted for intimidation, abduction, and killing.

2



While the security agencies have continued to assure Nigerians of a safe environment for the 2023 election, they must adopt proactive measures to curb all forms of violence before, during, and after the election.

3



INCIDENT CENTRE FOR ELECTION ATROCITIES

A centre established to harmonise and coordinate evidence collection, preservation and advocacy on violence connected with elections. Catalysing effective accountability as a counterpoise against election - related atrocity

 www.nigeriamourns.org/icea

 electionatrocities@gmail.com

 @iceaNigeria  @elctionatrocities

 +2349113021303

