

 **Monday 13 March 2023**

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

Preamble

The election day violence that erupted in some parts of the country during the February 25, 2023 presidential and national parliamentary elections and recent political events in the lead-up to the governorship and state house of assembly elections indicate that there is a need for security agencies to beef up security, particularly in places that have been identified as hotspots to ensure the safety of the electorates and general peaceful conduct of the process.

In the past week, at least 4 people were killed in 11 incidents of politically motivated violence across the country.

Attacks on politically exposed persons

1) **March 7, 2023:** Gunmen attacked the house of the candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) for the Okigwe state constituency, Engr Ifeanyi Ozoemena and set cars ablaze at Umuokparaoha village in Umulolo community, Okigwe L.G.A, Imo State.

2) **March 9, 2023:** During an election campaign at Katsina metropolis, Jibia L.G.A, Katsina State, Engineer Nura Khalil, the NNPP Katsina state gubernatorial candidate with the aid of some thugs attacked Engineer Muttaka Rabe his former deputy who has now decamped to APC.

3) **March 9, 2023:** Hon. Mark Onu, the Special Assistant on Youth Mobilization and Drug Control, to Ebonyi state Governor, David Umahi on Friday 3 March resigned from being a member of the Governor's cabinet and joined the People's Democratic Party. In response, the Governor sent some youth to seal his residential house at Chopper Avenue Amike Aba, Abakaliki, Ebonyi State. The governor has also declared him wanted.

4) **March 10, 2023:** The Ebonyi State Police Command declared the governorship candidate of the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA), Ifeanyi Odoh, wanted for alleged involvement in the murder of the traditional ruler of Ezza North. Chief C. Igboke.

5) **March 10, 2023:** Four persons were injured in Gidan Waya, Jema'a Local Government Area of Kaduna State as thugs attacked the campaign convoy of the Labour Party (LP) governorship candidate, Jonathan Asake.

6) **March 11, 2023:** The Labour Party governorship candidate in Lagos State, Gbadebo Rhodes-Vivour and Hon. Olawale Oluwo, a former Commissioner under Governor Akinwunmi Ambode's administration narrowly escaped death when some political thugs attacked them during the campaign walk of Labour Party at the Epe Area of Lagos State.

7) **March 11, 2023:** Gunmen attacked and killed the Councillor representing Echara Ward 2 in Okposi Community, Ohaozara local government area of Ebonyi State, Mr Ogbonnaya Ugwu.

Voter Intimidation

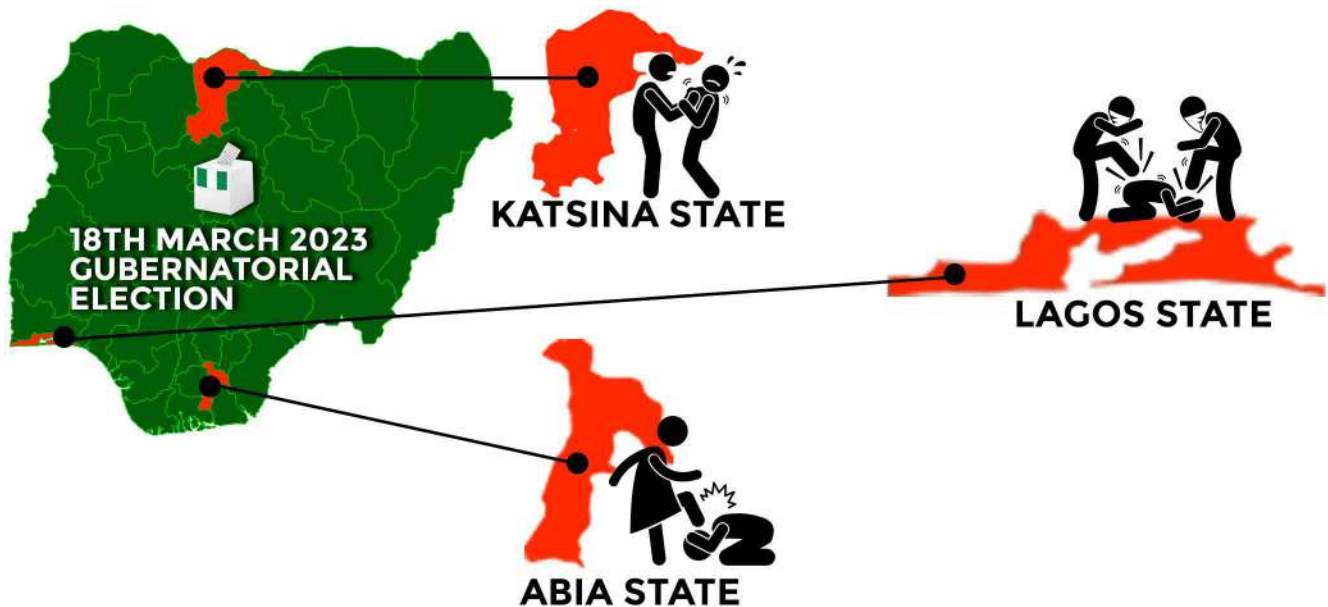
1) **March 10, 2023:** In a video shown at Aba Town Hall in Aba South LGA of Abia State, some supporters of Abia State PDP Gubernatorial candidate – Omenazu Ikonne and Mr. Chibuzo Nwogu led by the DG of Abia State Signage & Advertisement Agency, Mr Tony Otuonye, threatened to kill any visitor in Ngwaland that will vote against their candidate and drink the person's blood. They further declared that they are all prepared to either use diabolical means to frustrate any person or group of persons that will go against their will.

2) **March 11, 2023:** 2 people were killed and 3 injured when bandits riding over 200 bikes stormed Majifa village in Kankara L.G.A of Kastina State. While shooting at random, they said they would not allow anyone to vote in the gubernatorial elections.)

Attack on Party Supporters and political Rally

1) **March 9, 2023:** One Muhammad Abdullahi was killed while 15 other people were injured during a violent clash between supporters of People’s Democratic Party (PDP) and All Progressives Congress (APC) at a gubernatorial campaign rally in Duguri, Alkaleri L.G.A Bauchi State.

Conclusion



With the gubernatorial election a few days away, incidents of voter intimidation are on the rise again most notably in Abia, Lagos and Katsina States where there have been threats and violent attacks on candidates and their supporters.



As plans are underway to conduct free, fair and credible elections, we call on INEC, national security agencies and other stakeholders to rise up to their responsibility to ensure a seamless election process.



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

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