



# Election Atrocities Update

a monthly tracking of hate speech & election atrocities in Nigeria

**FEBRUARY 2023 TRACKING REPORT**

This report documents incidents of hate speech, malicious propagation of fake news, violence and other elections-related atrocities for **February 2023**.

## Preamble

As the largest administrative process conducted by State, elections are supposed to be conducted with utmost care and due diligence by the government. The credibility of the process secures legitimacy for the government and facilitates citizens' trust.

Despite the high level of citizens' dissatisfaction towards the previously conducted elections in Nigeria, the 2023 general elections saw increased citizens' willingness to participate actively, especially among the youth. Ironically, with a 27% turnout, the 2023 Presidential Election is the lowest in Nigeria's history. Even when computed as a proportion of collected PVCs rather than registered voters, the number is still low at 29%, as 93% of PVCs were collected. Many people may quickly argue that voter apathy still holds sway in elections in Nigeria, however, given the consensus view that Nigerians were more engaged in the 2023 General elections, other factors may have contributed to the low turnout recorded. The reported cases of violence and high-level voter suppression in addition to the late kickoff of election activities recorded across many states is one major factor. Another peculiar factor perhaps was the continued threat in the Southeast to voters not to participate in the election by the successionist group. Also, in many cases, lots of Nigerians that came out on election day had difficulties locating their polling units having been relocated to a different unit by INEC about a week before the elections to minimize over-crowding in certain areas. From what was experienced on election day, it could be safely argued that more Nigerians tried to vote than those that succeeded. Also, the naira and petrol scarcities in the weeks leading up to the elections arguably had significant impact on voter turnout as well. Notwithstanding the repeated claims of readiness by the Independent National Electoral Commission to conduct the elections, the entire process was fraught with various instances of politically motivated killings, kidnappings and harassment of voters at polling units across the country.

## ELECTION ATROCITIES TRACKER

Our election atrocities tracking for the month of February 2023 shows that the Southeast recorded the highest number of election-related deaths.

**50**   
**50 Deaths**

**9**   
**9 Abductions**

At least 50 people were killed and 9 others were abducted in election-related incidents in the month of February.

## ATTACKS ON INEC, POLICE & MILITARY PERSONNEL / FACILITIES

There were increased attacks on INEC staff, security agents and their facilities in the past month. There was deliberate targeting of security agencies in the country in the bid to instil fear and apprehensions ahead of the elections and suppress civic participation in the process. Some of these attacks include:

- 1) February 1, 2023:** Military Officers engaged Biafra agitators in a gun battle when they blocked the Eke-Ụtụ market road in Orsu, Imo.
- 2) February 1, 2023:** Gunmen attacked and set fire to the INEC office at Ojoto, Idemili South Local Government Area, destroying parts of the building and some non-essential materials for the forthcoming general election.
- 3) February 1, 2023:** Gunmen attacked and burnt Anambra State Vigilante Group (AVG) office and a magistrate court at Amaichi, Nnewi South, Anambra South.
- 4) February 2, 2023:** gunmen attacked Nnobi Police station at Idemili South, Anambra State, resulting in the death of 16 years old boy and injury of a young girl of about 15 years who sustained bullet wounds.
- 5) February 3, 2023:** Gunmen attacked a joint patrol team of the Njikoka Strike Force and Anambra State Vigilante Group, Abagana, killing 2 members of the Njikoka Strike Force, a member of the AVG, Abagana along with a tricycle operator.
- 6) February 5, 2023:** A retired police officer along with 2 others were killed in an attack on Maiyanga community, in Jos Plateau state.
- 7) February 9, 2023:** Gunmen ambushed and killed 4 military officers, in Kwale, Ndokwa West Council.



**8) February 11, 2023:** The advance team of the Governor Ifeanyi Okowa of Delta state, who is also the Vice-Presidential candidate of the People's 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.

**9) 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.

**10) February 20, 2023:** Gunmen attacked Awada Police Station in Idemilli North Local Government Area of Anambra State using improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and automatic firearms killing the Divisional Police Officer and three other operatives. 3 of the gang members also lost their lives and 2 AK 47 and vehicles were recovered by the police.

**11) February 21, 2023:** The house of Mr Chucks Ngwu, a retired DSS officer, was burnt down by gunmen at Okigwe, Isu L.G.A Imo.

**12) February 23, 2023:** Gunmen attacked the divisional police station at Ihie Divisional Police headquarters, Ugwunabo, Abia state. They vandalized the DPO office, and set the station and police patrol vehicle ablaze.

**13) February 24, 2023:** Gunmen attacked INEC Ad hoc staff camped at the Tudun Wada Primary School in the Gombe metropolis, Gombe state.

**14) February 24, 2023:** Gunmen attacked the Nkporo Police station at Ohafia, Abia State and injured 2 officers while carting cart away weapons.

**15) February 27, 2023:** 7 Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs) were smashed amongst other valuables as thugs attacked the INEC Anambra South senatorial district collation centre Nnewi, Anambra State.

**16) February 27, 2023:** Thugs invaded the Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State, the collation centre for the Presidential and National Assembly elections in the Northern Senatorial district of the State.

**17) February 27, 2023:** Gunmen attacked a vehicle conveying INEC officials killing one and injuring at least 5 at Ukwani Local Government Area of Delta State.

## ATTACKS ON POLITICIANS AND OTHER POLITICALLY EXPOSED PERSONS

In the days leading to the elections, we recorded 25 violent attacks on politically exposed people with at least 19 persons killed while 2 were abducted in atrocious acts of violence.

**1. February 1, 2023:** The new Commissioner of Women Affairs in Cross River, Prof. Getrude Njar, was abducted at Mayne Avenue, Calabar South Area Council, Cross River state.

**2. February 2, 2023:** a PDP senatorial candidate for Ebonyi South was attacked at a rally in Uburu Ohaozara local Government.

**3. February 3, 2023:** Gunmen attacked the convoy of APGA Ebonyi state Governorship candidate, Prof. Benard Odoh along the Enugu/Abakaliki expressway killing his driver, and leaving others injured. (1 killed)

**4. February 3, 2023:** The residence of the Kaduna Labour Party House of Representatives Candidate, Suleiman Tambaya at Guru Village was attacked leading to the death of 2 persons.

**5. February 4, 2023:** Gunmen set ablaze the home and properties of Imo Labour Party House of Assembly candidate, Nnaemeka Obiaraeri, at Amagu Ihube, Imo State.

**6. February 4, 2023:** The 2 wives and 5 children of the Monarch, HRH Sani Mohammed in Taraba State, were abducted on January 19, 2023 and later executed by their abductors.

**7. 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 and Elder Effiom Edet Ekpo - Atimbo West ward chairman, Innocent Atsenudiara - a supervisor in Calalabar 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.

**8. 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.

**9. 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.

**10. 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.

**11. 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.

**12. February 20, 2023:** Mr Aminu Ibrahim, the APC candidate for the house of rep Kafur /Malum-fashi federal constituency and Honourable Zahara-deen Usman Rawayau were attacked during a campaign at Makaurachi ward, Jibia, Kastina State.

**13. February 21, 2023:** Gunmen attacked and burnt down the house of Emeka Okoronkwo, the Imo State Commissioner for Youth and Sport along with 2 other houses in Amagu Ihube community in Okigwe L.G.A Imo state leading to the dead of an old woman who was caught in the inferno and burnt alive.

**14. February 22, 2023:** There was an attack at a political party meeting that was held in an Islamiyya in Turare town, Dutsinma Local Government area of Katsina state.

**15. February 22, 2023:** There were coordinated sporadic attacks on campaign vehicles in Enugu state leading to the killing and setting ablaze of 4 members of the Labour party including the Enugu East senatorial candidate, Barr. Oyibo Chukwu. Another campaign vehicle of the PDP was also attacked leading to the killing and setting ablaze of the sole occupant of the vehicle around the Eke Otu market and Ocean oil Amaechi Enugu south.

**16. February 23, 2023:** Thugs attacked the supporters and vehicles of the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP), Kwankwaso's campaign train along Na'ibawa-Zaria Road in Kano State.

**17. February 23, 2023:** Ugoeze Umugborogu, the wife of the late king of the Amuro autonomous community was kidnapped, while the houses of the Labour Party (LP) Chairman, Ifediora Umegborogu and the Chairman of the APC in Amuro ward were burnt down by gunmen.

**18. February 23, 2023:** The residence of Hon Charles Anyanwu, the APC House of Assembly Candidate for Etche Constituency, Port Harcourt in Rivers State was attacked by arsonists.

**19. February 23, 2023:** Gunmen attacked the Imo State Commissioner for Trade and Investment, Simon Ebegbulem and the member representing Okigwe South federal constituency, Chike Okafor, at Alike near Okata community in Ihitte-Uboma LGA of the state, shortly after returning from the APC rally.

**20. February 23, 2023:** The house of Mr Chucks Ngwu, a retired DSS officer, was burnt down by gunmen at Okigwe, Isu L.G.A Imo State

**21. February 24, 2023:** The convoy of the wife of Zamfara PDP Governorship candidate, Hajiya Hurriyah Lawal was attacked by gunmen. Two policemen and several other civilians were injured within the Gusau metropolis, Zamfara State.

**22. February 24, 2023:** The residence of the House of Representatives representing Ohaji-Egbema, Oguta and Oru West Federal Constituency in Imo State, Hon. Uju Kingsley Chima was attacked at Umuorji in Egbem, Imo State.

**23. February 24, 2023:** Gunmen attacked the convoy of the member representing Okigwe South Federal Constituency, Chike Okafor at Okata Iowa, Ihitte-Uboma local government area of Imo state. Others in the convoy included the Imo State Commissioner for Trade and Investment, Simon Ebegbulem, MD, Imo state Waste Management Agency.

**24. February 26, 2023:** Gunmen attacked and killed the traditional ruler of the Umuezeokaha community, HRH, Eze Igboke Ewa at his residence in Ezza North LGA of Ebonyi State.

**25. February 27, 2023:** Two (2) people were killed and one (1) assailant was fatally injured when thugs set the campaign office of New Nigeria Peoples Party in Tudun Wada Local Government Area of Kano State ablaze.

Elections in Nigeria have always been shadowed by fear of death and attacks especially targeted at aspirants and members of their family and friends. Influential people who openly support a candidate also position themselves as targets for violence. This trend is one that shouldn't be allowed to thrive in a civilized and Democratic society.



## ATTACKS AT CAMPAIGN RALLIES

At least 5 people were brutally killed while partaking in political rallies in February, most of these attacks were the result of clashes between supporters of opposing political parties. The reported incidents are listed below:

**1. February 7, 2023:** Thugs reportedly disrupted an 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.

**4. February 20, 2023:** Several people were injured in an inter-party clash between the supporters of the APC and that of PDP at Ijebu Ijesa, roundabout at Oriade, Osun State.

**5. February 21, 2023:** Gunmen attacked a PDP campaign rally, shot severally in the air and shot at a woman named Nancy while trying to disperse everyone at Aninri West development headquarters Nenwe, Enugu state.

**6. February 23, 2023:** 4 people were killed and 63 armed thugs were arrested during a clash between rival political party supporters at a rally on Zaria Road, Kano.

**7. February 23, 2023:** Gunmen attacked a Labour Party campaign at Umuokwa, Isiala Ngwa, Abia State.

## VOTER INTIMIDATION/ SUPPRESSION AND VANDALIZATION OF CAMPAIGN MATERIALS

Voter intimidation is a reoccurring trend in Nigeria as over time politicians have employed the use of thugs to intimidate voters and obstruct the electioneering process. However, in February, secessionists who did not want elections to hold especially in the Southeast of the country accounted for most of the voter intimidation that took place in the country.

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.

**5. February 20, 2023:** Gunmen shot in the air while yelling and pasting posters that stated that they will be no elections on Biafra land at Ezzangbo junction, Ohaukwu local government, Ebonyi State.

**6. February 21, 2023:** heavily armed men were sighted going around to paste notices round Asaga in Ohafia L.G.A, Abia state that there will be no election in Biafra, which is South eastern Nigeria.

**7. February 22, 2023:** Thugs went around chanting the name of the presidential candidate, Bola Ahmed Tinubu of the APC and threatened to beat up anyone who did not support him at Ilasa, Mushin, Lagos state.

**8. February 22, 2023:** The campaign billboard of the Labour party candidate Barrister Nwugo Ozurumba for Nwere, Isu, Nwangele and Njaba federal constituency was mutilated by unidentified persons at Okporo, Umundugba community close to the Isu L.G.A. Imo state.

**9. February 22, 2023:** After the Parish Priest openly campaigned against the APC, thugs attacked the St Andrews catholic church Amaezekwe, Ezza south LGA of Ebonyi state.

**10. February 22, 2023:** Gunmen attacked the campaign office of Amb. Osita Offor, the senatorial candidate of ADC, for Abia North senatorial zone, and vandalized all his campaign materials, office equipment and furniture at Ngodo Isuoche Umunneochi, LGA Abia state.

**11. February 23, 2023:** Gunmen on several motorcycles rode into Okwo Ngbo market in Ngbo town Ohaukwu, Ebonyi state, shooting sporadically in the air and burning down some commercial motorcycles in the market.

## HATE SPEECH

The use of hate speech was also very rampant in the days preceding and after the elections as political opponents verbally abused one another sometimes outrightly threatening and instigating their supporters to harm opponents.

**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'.

## ATTACKS ON MEDIA FACILITIES

February 21, 2023: Two broadcast stations, Wish FM 99.5 and the Atlantic Television Network in Ozuoba, Obio/Akpor L.G.A of Rivers State were attacked with explosive devices suspected to be dynamite.

## ATTACKS ON ELECTION DAY – FEBRUARY 25, 2023

During the Presidential and National Assembly elections which were held on February 25, 2023, it was observed that Nigerian security agencies failed to ensure the security of the lives and property of INEC, its staff and other civilians, particularly at polling units as they were often left at the mercy of political thugs. Security Agents, especially the police appeared ill-prepared for the tension and attacks that were witnessed on election day, especially in the South-east where officers and properties were lost to gunmen

Election day recorded the highest number of politically-motivated violence in the month. We documented at least **10** deaths in Edo, Taraba, Rivers, Gombe, Abia and Kogi states on election day. At least 7 persons including 3 ad-hoc staff of INEC were abducted on election day in Taraba and Kaduna states.

1. Gunmen attacked and disrupted the presidential and National Assembly election at Owoseni, Ijaye, Branco, Owolabi, Fadeyi streets and some cluster units in Mafoluku, Oshodi area of Lagos State.

2. Suspected terrorists attacked a petrol station near the INEC office at Gwoza, Borno State.

3. Five (5) people were injured during an attack on voters in Gwoza Council of Borno State.

4. One (1) security officer and one (1) civilian were killed during an attack by gunmen in Ugbolu community, near Asaba, Delta State. (2 killed)

5. Gunmen attacked the Election monitoring teams near the Chief's palace in Bwari Area council Abuja.

6. Gunmen attacked EFCC Election monitoring teams at Unit 001, Mann Primary School behind Chorobim junction in Imo.

7. Joey Akan, was assaulted at his polling unit during a ballot-snatching attack in Oba Elegushi, Lagos State.

8. Ojochenemi Akayaba was shot dead after allegedly snatching ballot boxes during the elections at Agwudoko area in Anyigba. (1 killed)

9. Thugs attacked a polling unit and destroyed INEC materials in Dekina community of Kogi state.

10. Thugs disrupted the voting process in the WAZO-BIA park polling unit in Gwagwalada, Abuja.

11. Four 4 thugs disrupted elections at Ward A, Polling Unit 11, Igbokushu, Eti-osa L.G.A, Lagos state.

12. Gunmen snatched ballot boxes at the Polling Unit 003, Dagiri community, Gwagwalada Area Council in Abuja.

13. Party agents clashed during voting in Unit 1 ward 10, Ikot Ebom primary school, Itu LGA in Akwa Ibom state.

14. Five (5) journalists, Daily Post state correspondent Akam James, the publisher of Upfront news magazine Princewill Sede, the managing editor of Upfront news magazine, Jeany Metta, TVC reporter, Joe Kunde and the cameraman, Mr. Miebi Bina were assaulted and chased away when thugs attacked the Ebelebiri community ward 05 unit 19 in Bayelsa state.



15. The Executive Director of the International Centre for Investigative Reporting (ICIR), Dayo Aiyetan was attacked by thugs at the Agwan Fulani Town Hall, Gwagwalada town, Abuja.

16. Adebola Ajayi, a Lagos metro beat reporter, at the Peoples Gazette. Her phone was briefly confiscated shortly after snapping photographs and filming in Orile-Oshodi Ward where thugs were terrorizing polling centres in the city's central suburb of Oshodi, Lagos State.

17. Voting was disrupted when thugs attacked a polling unit on Ibadan Street near Herbert Macaulay in Lagos.

18. Thugs disrupted voting in an attack at a polling unit at Agboola Obisanya Junction, Mafoluku area of Lagos State.

19. Thugs disrupted voting at Oba Yekini, Elegushi Street; Ikate, Lekki; Akinyele Street in Aguda, Surulere and Fadeyi areas of Lagos.

20. The head of the Lagos State branch of the National Union of Road Transport Workers Musiliu Akinsanya, popularly known as MC Oluomo, threatened to resist any Igbo who attempted to vote in his polling unit. He was recorded saying "Any Igbo wen dem born well, make e come vote again; me I dey here" while another man said "If you no fit vote APC for here, go your house. Nobody forced you come here. I go come check am. If I see you vote another party, you go enter one chance. We no come joke for here," in attempts to suppress voters of opposing parties.

21. During a heated argument a man was shot dead by soldiers trying to enforce the no-movement rule at a checkpoint at Gadan Karofi (Karofi bridge) along the CBN bye-pass in Jalingo, Taraba state. (1 killed)

22. NNPP and APC Supporters clashed at a Polling Unit at the Chiranci community of Gwale L.G.A, Kano State.

23. Thugs attacked polling units in Oshimili LGA of Delta, State leading to the disappearance of two BVAS machines.

24. Few minutes before the commencement of voting, bandit-terrorists launched an attack on Alawa in Shiroro LGA of Niger State.

25. Thugs attacked a voting location and snatched six BVAS machines in Safana LGA of Katsina state.

26. Elections were halted in ward 12 Emohua LGA, Ubimini Rivers State as a pregnant woman, Ruth Osah and one other person, Mark Orduize were killed and two houses were also burnt in the community causing voters to flee. (2killed)

27. One Akinlabi Akinnaso (Oluomo) was shot dead by security operatives as he attempted to disrupt collation at a Ward Collation centre in Idanre Local Government Area of Ondo State. (1 killed)

28. One person was shot dead and another injured in a violent clash between political thugs attempting to steal ballot boxes and security agents at the polling Unit of Gombe. (1 killed)

29. Three ad-hoc staff of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) were abducted in Donga local government area of Taraba State. (3 abducted)

30. An angry mob beat up a corps member deployed to LEA primary school, Lugbe, Abuja as an Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) ad-hoc staff, on the suspicion that he was involved in the act of thumbprinting ballot papers in favour of one of the presidential aspirants.

31. While election results were being collated, 4 people were abducted in Unguwar kwari, Dandali Jibia metropolis of Kaduna State. (4 abducted)

32. Fight erupted at Ubakala ward A, and polling Unit 019, Umuojeayo Hall, Mgbarakuma, Umuahia south Abia State when a supporter of a particular political party tried to disrupt elections at the unit.

33. In the early hours of the election day, gunmen went round the villages in Arondizuogu, Ideato North Imo State, announcing with loudspeakers that there will be no election in Biafra land, warning people to stay in their homes.

34. 2 people including the assailant were killed when a Youth from Adan Abam in Arochukwu LGA claiming that there would be no election on Biafra land went to a polling unit at Ndiavom Abam, Arochukwu, Abia state with a machete and attacked a voter. Angry youths in the community killed him before security personnel could arrive at the scene. (2 killed)

## **VOTE BUYING/MANIPULATION**

As the dates of elections drew near, there were a few incidents of party supporters buying votes to secure the position of their preferred candidates, there were also cases where voters' rights were suppressed due to hoarding of PVCs and the absence of INEC staff.

1. Operatives of the EFCC arrested Dr. Cletus Tyokyaa, the Director-General of the PDP governorship campaign council who is also a lecturer with the Sarwuan Tarka University (formerly known as the University of Agriculture), Makurdi, Benue State, at the RCM Polling Unit in Daudu, Guma Local Government Area with the sum of N306, 700 in various denominations stashed in his car.

2. The EFCC arrested a man for alleged vote buying with N194,000 at Gidan Zakka polling unit, Goron Dutse area of Kano Municipal Local Government, Kano State.

3. A party agent buying votes through bank transfers was also arrested in Abaji in the Federal Capital Territory, while two persons, Stanley Nsemo and Eno Amponsah were arrested in Calabar, Cross River State with the sum of \$450 (Four Hundred and Fifty United States Dollars) and N156, 800 on suspicion of alleged votes buying.

4. Maryam Mamman Alhaji with 18 voter cards was intercepted by operatives of EFCC in a sting operation at Badarwa/Malali Ward 01 and 08, Kaduna North Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

5. Operatives of the Department of State Service (DSS), arrested the INEC Abia State Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC), Chijioke Uzochukwu for absconding from his duty post thereby delaying the transmission of election results in the state.

Vote buying is another reoccurring threat to democracy and free and fair elections in Nigeria. Over the years people have been bribed to vote for candidates for as low as NGN5,000. It is yet to be seen whether the newly introduced monetary policy with the Naira redesign aimed at eradicating vote buying had any real effect.

### IMPACT ON THE NIGERIA CIVIC SPACE

Recent events trailing the elections will have a long-lasting effect on Nigeria's civic space. Insecurity and poor logistics planning deprived many Nigerians of their civic right to vote during the elections. Social media provided an inauspicious platform for the propagation of hate speech against certain candidates and their supporters. During the elections, voters were brutally attacked and, in some instances, killed. Even the media was not spared as some journalists were attacked in their course of duty on election day while 2 media houses were burnt down in Rivers State. Activities of NGOs have also been restricted in places like Adamawa state where the Governor placed a ban on some INGO activities within the state effective from 29th February to March 15th 2023.

### CONCLUSION

The failure to transmit election results directly from the polling unit using the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS), in accordance with paragraph 38 of the INEC manual made pursuant to section 149 of the Electoral Act 2022 and the 1999 constitution as amended coupled with the inadequacies of security structures, the logistics shortcomings tend to cast aspersions on the credibility of the process.

There is a palpable sense of disaffection towards the electoral body due to the many lapses experienced in the presidential and National Assembly elections. How this will affect the gubernatorial and house of assembly elections coming up on March 11 is yet to be seen.



## 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](http://www.nigeriamourns.org/icea)  
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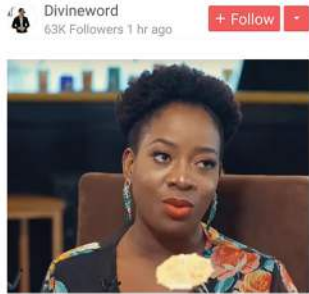




# SOCIAL TRACKER

A monthly tracking of hate speech and election atrocities online

My Husband And I Were Not Allowed To Vote, They Said We Look Like Igbo -Sisi Yemmie Alleges



Thread



**ljeoma**  
@ljeoma\_x

Happening Now in my estate. One thug shot dead. More to come. Kudos to the men and women in my estate for standing their ground. I personally beat a police woman. 🇳🇮🇳🇮

#situationreport Ago palace way



11:25 AM · 18 Mar 23 · 18.3K Views

258 Retweets 42 Quotes 310 Likes



**ljeoma** @ljeoma\_x · 14m  
All of you coming in my DM advising me to delete my tweet are bunch of fools. Police men and women assigned to my estate where romancing thugs, looked the other way whilst they were disrupting and chasing Copers away. We have brought out our dogs and guns. Y'all are mad.



Follow the link to access videos:



[bit.ly/iceamedia](https://bit.ly/iceamedia)



**Retson Tedheke**  
@RetsonTedheke01

LAGOS BELONGS To The IGBOS. That Has Been Confirmed Today. Any Naive LAGOSIAN That Comes To Defend The Nonsense Happening in Lagos Today Must Know That I Don't Take Prisoners. If You Come and Defend Nonsense. I Will Rubbish Your Defence. The IGBOS OWN LAGOS!

+234 803 287 4949 -2348032874949

+234 803 337 1777

VOTE, continuity, VOTE SANWO OLU FOR GOVERNOR, kindly help share on all social media platforms, .

At this point,APC leadership needs to strategize for the gubernatorial election against the Ibo bigots,I suggest we do the Governor Wike option.let the leaders do the needful; clear ground for the boys to disenchant the opposition from voting.

22 06

Don't wait for Ibos to win election in lagos.lets be proactive.

22 08

I can conveniently handle my area operations

22 10

Breaking News!

Tonye Cole Campaign DG of Ahoada West who was whisked away from a PU early hours of Saturday has been found dead.



13:01

Thread

@RetsonTedheke01

EVERY ONE OF MY POST on This Lagos Election Was Calculated To Make The YORUBAS Angry At The Madness of IPOB Influence Igbo Domination in Lagos.

I Knew I Cannot Vote, But I Can Get Enough Yorubas Angry Enough To Go & Vote.

13:29 · 19/03/2023 · 51.7K Views

92 Retweets 100 Quotes

323 Likes 31 Bookmarks



**Retson Tedheke** @RetsonTedhek... · 23h  
In Extreme Cases Be A Small Gov Wike and Gov Bello in Setting The Record Straight.

I am Happy My Little Contribution Supposedly Worked Psychologically and Physically With The Few LAGOSIANS I Know Because I Could Not Vote in Lagos.

Now LAGOSIANS Must Ensure There is No Repeat!

4 21 67 6,210



Tweet your reply



**Efam Harris**  
@iefamharris

No Election in PU 061, Opp Comm Executive, Ojodu Berger, Lagos and all neighbouring PUs.

"If you are not voting APC, go home."

"Omo Igbo!"

Just 3 people in my PU: me, my brother and an elderly woman. We resisted as much as we could.



INCIDENT CENTRE FOR ELECTION ATROCITIES