



Election Atrocities Update

a monthly tracking of hate speech & election atrocities in Nigeria

MARCH 2023 TRACKING REPORT

This report documents incidents of hate speech, malicious propagation of fake news, violence and other forms of elections-related atrocities for the month of March 2023.

Preamble

In the month of March, our ICEA tracking recorded at least 44 killings and 36 abductions as a result of politically motivated violence across Nigeria. These killings and abductions took place in the heat of the gubernatorial and state houses of assembly elections as political parties struggled to maintain and acquire more power at the state level.

ELECTION ATROCITIES TRACKER

Our election atrocities tracking for the month of February 2023

44 
44 Deaths

36 
36 Abductions

At least 44 people were killed and 36 others were abducted as a result of politically motivated violence.

ATTACKS ON INEC, POLICE & MILITARY PERSONNEL / GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

1) March 5, 2023: Armed bandits attacked the headquarters of Maru L.G.A Zamfara State killing three (3) people including the DPO, sergeant Rabiou Bagobiri and one vigilante official identified as Shehu Chuka. (1 DPO and 2 vigilantes killed)

2) March 16th, 2023: 4 soldiers and 3 vigilantes were killed by gunmen in Igu village along Sarkin Pawa-Kaduna Road, Munya Local Government area of Niger State. (7 killed)

3) March 20, 2023: The Electoral Officer, Bashir Shagari and the Returning Officer for the Zamfara State governorship election in the Maradun L.G.A were both kidnapped on a bridge near Maradun town on their way to the collation center. (2 abducted)

4) March 21, 2023: Gunmen attacked and burnt down a High Court at Owutu-Edda, Afikpo South Local Government Area (LGA) of Ebonyi State.

5) March 26, 2023: Gunmen killed two Policemen on stop and search duty at a checkpoint close to the University of Nigeria Enugu campus (UNIEC) Oguiyi road Enugu state. (2 killed)

6) March 27, 2023: Gunmen ambushed and killed 3 officers of Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps at Ekelsu market, Obiangwu Community, Ngor Okpala L. G. A, Imo State. (3 Killed)

7) March 27, 2023: Tanimu Mamman Maidabino, a police officer was killed on his way to Danmusa

town from his home town Maidabino village, Jibia Katsina State. (1 killed)

ATTACKS ON POLITICALLY EXPOSED PERSONS

1) March 3, 2023: Gunmen abducted two wives and a son of Dansalama Adamu, the Chief of Sarkin Kudu, in the Ibi L.G.A of Taraba State. (2 abducted)

2) March 5, 2023: Gunmen killed Alhaji Dahiru Abba, the village head of Maigari in Rimin Gado L.G.A, Kano State. (1 killed)

3) March 5, 2023: PDP gubernatorial candidate for Enugu state, Barr. Peter Ndubisi Mba was booed and attacked with empty bottles during a campaign at the Ugwu Di Nso Prayer Center, Eke in Udi LGA of Enugu State.

4) March 7th, 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 Umuokpara-raoha village in Umulolo community, Okigwe L.G.A, Imo State.

5) 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 together with some thugs attacked Engineer Muttaka Rabe his former deputy who has now decamped to APC.

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

7) March 10th, 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.

8) March 10th, 2023: Four (4) 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.

9) 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 when some thugs attacked them during the campaign walk of the LP at the Epe Area of Lagos State.

10) March 11, 2023: Gunmen attacked and killed the Councilor representing Echara Ward2 in Okposi Community, Ohaozara local government area of Ebonyi State, Mr Ogonnaya Ugwu, popularly known as SPACO. (1 killed)

11) March 12th, 2023: The Speaker of the Delta State House of Assembly, Hon. Sheriff Oborewori was attacked along Warri/Sapele Highway in Delta state

12) March 13th, 2023: Chukwudi Ogbonna, the Accord Party candidate for Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni L.G.A Constituency 2 in the Rivers State House of Assembly was abducted while driving in his car at Rumuigbo, near Port Harcourt, Rivers State. (1 abducted)

13) March 14th, 2023: APC youth leader Hamdan Alhazzai Shinkafi was attacked by gunmen at Kaura Namoda-Shinkafi Road in Zamfara State.

14) March 16th, 2023: APC secretary in Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State, Amadi Osaronu was abducted in Aluu Rivers state. (1 abducted)

15) March 16th, 2023: Three people were killed as APC and PDP supporters clashed at Ile-Titun area of Ibadan Oyo state. (3 killed)

16) March 15th, 2023: Gunmen invaded the home, abducted 4 and killed the village head in Gusasai community, Alhaji Abu, in Bosso L.G.A of Niger State. (1 killed) (4 abducted)

17) March 23, 2023: Gunmen attempted to assassinate Benue State House of Assembly member-elect for Gboko-West constituency, Mr Aondona Dajoh, at Gyado Junction in Gboko L.G.A of Benue state.

18) March 25, 2023: Bandits abducted Ibrahim Ma,aji, the Special Adviser on Political Affairs to Zamfara State Governor at his residence in the Mareri area in Gusau town, Zamfara State capital. (1 abducted)

ATTACKS ON PARTY SUPPORTERS AND CAMPAIGN RALLIES

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

2) March 17, 2023: Some people were arrested while others were injured during a clash between APC and PDP supporters at the collation center of Umuogudu Oshia ward, community primary school Ukpeshi, Ohaukwu L.G.A, Ebonyi state. Some INEC officials were injured in the attack.

3) March 16, 2023: Labor party supporters were attacked by at Bode Thomas Junction Constituency 1, Surulere, Lagos. The thugs destroyed the musical equipment of the party members campaigning in the area.

4) March 20, 2023: Thugs attacked the APC secretariat along Maiduguri Road destroying properties. In the mayhem, a house and some vehicles belonging to a local musician Dauda Kahutu Rarara and another house and some buses along Zoo Road were burnt down.

VOTER INTIMIDATION / SUPPRESSION AND VANDALIZATION OF CAMPAIGN MATERIALS

1) March 10, 2023: In a video at Aba Town Hall in Aba South, of Abia State, some PDP stakeholders and staunch supporters of Abia State PDP Gubernatorial candidate led by the DG Abia State Signage & Advertisement Agency, Mr Tony Otuonye, Omenazu Ikonne, and Mr.Chibuzo Nwogu, threatened to kill any visitor in Ngwaland that will vote against their candidate and drink the person's blood, they said 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 the Majifa village of Kankara L.G.A, Kastina State. While shooting at random, they said they will not allow anyone to vote in the gubernatorial election. (2 killed)

ATTACKS ON ELECTION DAY (MARCH 18TH, 2023)

1) During an attack on polling units within the state, an election observer Mr. Nnanna Nwangwu was attacked in Obiagu, Enugu North L.G.A of Enugu State.

2) Hoodlums attacked a polling unit in Ogbia Constituency 2, Bayelsa State. They hijacked and burnt election materials.

3) 19 INEC ad hoc staff were abducted by gunmen at Ughelie ward 06 in Ideato South local government in Imo state. (**19 abducted**)

4) In a viral video made on the morning of the election by Barrister Fred Ajudua, from Ibusa in Oshimili North LGA, Delta state told voters in the state to stay away from polling units if they won't vote for the ruling People's Democratic Party during the state election.

5) Thugs attacked a polling unit at Ute, Ose Local Government Area of Ondo state.

6) Thugs attacked Adejare Polling Unit (PU) in Ilasa, Oshodi/Isolo Local Government Area (LGA) and destroyed election materials.

7) PDP and APC party supporters clash at Gwale Local Government Area of Kano State.

8) 1 person was killed and 1 abducted when gunmen attacked a polling unit at Ibagwa polling unit 2, Ward 10 in Ahoada West LGA, River's state. (**1 abducted, 1 killed**)

9) Thugs attacked Pangpit polling unit in Mikang Local Government Area of Plateau State and destroyed election materials.

10) Thugs invaded IDP camps and attacked polling units at units 11 and 17 in Eresoyen Primary School Uhogua- Iguoshodin community, Ovia South East L.G.A of Edo State.

11) Thugs attacked and snatched ballot boxes at Ayegbami polling booth, Ward 3, Unit 5, in Iperu-Remo, Ogun State.

12) Thugs destroyed election materials during an attack on polling units at Omege Ward, Ezza North L.G.A, Ebonyi state.

13) Attack on polling units by thugs in Metu Memorial Primary school in Odoakpu area of Onitsha, Anambra State.

14) Attack on polling units and dispersion of voters by thugs at Ward D, Igando/Ikotun, Lagos State.

15) Thugs prevented non-indigenes from voting during elections at Ward 018 in Jakande estate, Isolo Lagos state.

16) Soldiers shot at thugs who attempted to run away with ballot boxes from polling units at Obio-Akpor L.G.A, River's state.

17) 3 people were killed during an attack on polling units by thugs in Mosogar, Ethiope West Local Government Area, Delta State. (3 killed)

18) A policeman and a civilian were shot during an attack on polling units in Idanre, headquarters of Idanre Local Government Area Ondo state.

19) Election materials were destroyed and ballot boxes were snatched during an attack on polling units in poling unit 034 at Yankaba ward, Nasarawa local government area of Kano state.

20) Armed thugs attacked a polling unit in Idemilli farm Obosi, Anambra state.

21) Thugs attacked a polling unit in Rimin Gado Local Government Area of Kano State.

22) Voters were attacked and threatened by suspected APC thugs in Agbo-Ola Street, Orile, Oshodi, Lagos state.

23) Election materials were destroyed during an attack on polling units by hoodlums in Donga local government council of Taraba State.

24) Three (3) hoodlums were caught and killed during attacks on polling units 026 and 004, Gboko South, Gboko Local Government Area of Benue State. (3 killed)

25) Election materials were destroyed and ballot boxes were snatched during an attack on polling units in Ihiala, Ihiala local government area, Anambra State.

26) Election materials were destroyed and ballot boxes were snatched during attacks on polling units in Ajiran area of Agungi, Lekki, Eti-Osa local government area in Lagos state.

27) Chioma Akpotha, a popular Nollywood actress and Waje a musician were attacked by hoodlums during attacks on their polling units within Lagos state

28) Gunmen invaded and attacked the APC Oyo state gubernatorial candidate Teslim Folarin, family house in Ile-tuntun, in Ibadan southeast L.G.A, Oyo state.

29) The Labor Party agent at Apapa area of Lagos state was killed during an attack on polling units. (1 killed)

30) EFCC operatives were attacked by vote buyers in School Road, Unguwan Rimi Kaduna state.

31) The house of the former President-General of the Urhobo Progressive Union, Joe Omene was attacked in Mosogar, Ethiope-West Local Government Area of Delta State during an attack by thugs who were burning down facilities.

32) A middle-aged man was shot dead by security agents in a scuffle at a polling unit in Sauka-kahuta area of Minna, Niger State. (1killed)

33) Thugs attacked the Gbadagbadzu polling unit in Busutown, Lavun L.G.A, Niger State.

34) Bandits attacked Kwararen Tukane 006 Mazanya ward, in Jibia L.G.A, Katsina state.

35) Fight erupted at Amakohia Ward 1 /PU 001, Ihitte-Uboma, Imo state when a male Labour Party agent physically assaulted a male voter for deliberately exposing his ballot paper (after casting his ballot).

36) Thugs attacked a polling unit at Umuchieze Hall, Afor Umuchieze in Umunomo/Umuchieze Ward in Ahiazu Mbaise L.G.A, Ihitte-Uboma, Imo state destroying election materials in the process.

37) Thugs attacked and destroyed election materials at Umuezegwu Ward/PU 002, Ihitte-Uboma, Imo state.

38) Election officers were threatened by thugs when they failed to upload election results due to over-voting in Okota Ward /PU 005, Ihitte-Uboma, Imo state. This made the Polling Officer go ahead to upload the results for the safety of the team.

39) Voting was suspended as APGA and APC supporters fought at Okota Ward 006, Lagos state.

40) The Peoples Democratic Party Chairman in Ezza North L.G.A, Ebonyi state, Peter Nweke sustained fatal injuries when thugs attacked him during the governorship elections. He died the day after. (1 killed)

41) Uchenna Ogbonna, who is now at large, fired gun shots while votes were being counted at a polling unit inside Uhuokwu town hall, Umuahia North, Abia state.

42) Thugs attacked the collation centre in Obingwa L.G.A, Abia state.

43) Thugs attacked some polling units at ward 04 Abakaliki L.G.A Ebonyi State, hijacked materials at boot o8 achi street, boot 11 Azugwu and 09 Cas campus of Ebonyi state university.

44) The NNPP gubernatorial candidate of Katsina state Engineer Nura Khalil was attacked at Kankara along Yar Goje village, Jibia L.G.A, Katsina state on his way to Funtua to cast his vote.

45) Voting was suspended when a fight erupted at a polling unit at Umuokeyi village square, Umuahia North, Abia state.

46) INEC officials were prevented from living a polling unit at Aguluezechukwu, Aguata L.G.A, Anambra, until the arrival of the L.G.A Electoral Officer (EO) after they refused to upload results and insisted that they were ordered to collate results at the L.G.A headquarters.

47) The agent of Labour Party was physically assaulted and injured by thugs at Amawbia Ward 2 Polling unit 004, Njikoka L.G.A, Anambra State.

48) The newly elected senator of Orlu zone Hon. Osita Izunaso in the company of armed uniformed thugs attacked the Isu L.G.A collation center, Imo state, physically assaulting people including one of the PDP agents and forcefully removed the Electoral Officer and the Assistant Electoral Officer.

49) Thugs attacked the polling unit at Amurie ward1, Isu L.G.A, Imo state and took away ballot papers and BVA machine from Booth 002, 003, and 005 of the same ward.

50) Thugs attacked PU 012, Nonwa Ward 7 in Tai LGA of Rivers State, destroyed materials and beat up election officials.

51) Election Observers and INEC officials were assaulted by thugs in Itori Odo Area of Abeokuta South LGA, In Ogun State. The thugs also destroyed ballot boxes and election materials during the attack.

52) Thugs in army uniforms invaded 005 polling unit at Oriuzor Ezza north, Ohaozara, Ebonyi state.

53) Thugs attacked a polling unit at Oshiegbe ward in Ezza north L.G.A, Ebonyi state and burnt INEC materials.

54) Thugs attacked a polling unit at Ugwuorie, Abakiliki, Ebonyi, snatched the ballot box and stabbed a PDP agent who tried to intervene.

55) APC chieftain in Ezzangbo ward announced at a polling unit in Amovu boot, Ohaukwu, Ebonyi state that people who would not vote APC should leave the polling unit or be ready to face the consequences. Some voters left the location without voting.

56) At the Mgboko, Obingwa L.G.A, Abia state collation centre, Dr. George Ogbonna, the Labour Party agent in Obingwa, was physically assaulted and forcefully taken out of the centre by some thugs, led by Chibuzo Nwogu, Nelson Ngozi (alias Umaru) and Maduka Akpulonu when he raised an alarm concerning attempts to manipulate the election results at the centre.

57) Adefemi Egbeoluwa, a former permanent secretary in Ogun state and his wife, Oluwafunmilayo, were murdered in their residence at Allen Avenue, Ikeja area, Lagos state. (2 killed)

VOTE BUYING AND MANIPULATION ON ELECTION DAY

1) March 18, 2023: Vote buying took place at Kiyawa L.G.A, Jigawa State

2) March 18, 2023: Voter's intimidation by Barr. Fred Ajudua in Ibusa, Oshimili North Delta state.

3) March 18, 2023: EFCC arrested vote buyers in Irepodun, Ilorin West and Ilorin South L.G.A, Kwara state.

4) March 18, 2023: At Booth 006 Umunwodor Hall, Umundugba Ward1, Isu, Imo state, PDP and APC agents promised to give NGN5000 to people who voted for their parties and showed the ballot paper to them.

5) March 18, 2023: EFCC Operatives arrested a party agent for alleged vote buying at a polling unit in the Sabongari area of Minna, Niger State.

6) March 18, 2023: APC supporters were seen paying NGN2,000 to people who voted their party at Amakohia Ward 1 /PU 001, Ihitte-Uboma, Imo state.

7) March 18, 2023: The All Progressives Congress and Peoples Democratic Party distributed food, cash and alcoholic drinks to voters in exchange for votes in Apir Market Square 1 in Makurdi, Benue State.

8) March 18, 2023: Security operative officers arrested a PDP agent with thumb-printed ballot papers at Okpuala Ngwa, Isialangwa North, Abia State.

ATTACKS ON THE MEDIA ON ELECTION DAY

1) Arise crew members were attacked and their equipment were seized by thugs at Elegushi Palace, Lekki Lagos state.

2) Thugs attacked AIT crew members and prevented them from covering the elections at some polling units in Eti-Osa, Ifako-Ijaiye and Amuwo Odofin LGAs, Lagos state.

3) News Agency of Nigeria journalist amongst others was assaulted by political thugs in Itori Odo Area of Abeokuta South LGA, In Ogun State.

4) Thugs attacked Ashiru Umar, a journalist with Premier Radio Kano, while on election duty at Gidan Galadima in Galadanci Primary, Gwale L.G.A Kano state.

5) Mr. Edwin Philip, Head of News, Breeze FM Lafia was attacked by some personnel of Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) Nasarawa State command at Polling Unit 016, Chiroma Ward, Nasarawa state.

FAKE NEWS AND HATE SPEECH

March 1, 2023: Chief Okey Ezea while thanking supporters for his election at his country home at Igboeze south, Enugu state, called on Nsukka youths to see the gubernatorial election coming up as war between Nkanu and Nsukka and charged the youths to be ready.

March 22, 2023: Former Aviation Minister, Femi Fani-Kayode in a twitter post said: "Dear Obidients, hear this and eat it: your Obidient bubble has burst forever. From now on it is downhill for you. You are now in political oblivion and you will remain there. Your hateful and divisive disposition and your religious and ethnic bigotry have destroyed you. As for your court case challenging Asiwaju, it is the joke of the century. It's not going anywhere and you will come out crying. We shall spank you hard there and flush you down the toilet just as we have done in all the elections."

March 28, 2023: The former Governor of Enugu State, Chimaroke Nnamani said, "Ayu is just an unmitigated disaster. His leadership is an evil that befell the PDP. The only option left is to show him the exit door."

March 18, 2023: There was a fake claim that the Labour Party issued a press release saying its gubernatorial candidate in Lagos State was no longer Gbadebo Rhodes-Vivour but Ifagbemi Awamaridi. However, Sam Okpala, the Lagos State secretary of the LP, in whose name the letter was signed said the letter was false.

March 16, 2023: There was a viral bloodied image of Labor Party House of Assembly candidate Olumide Oworu purported to be from the attack on his campaign council. This was found to be fake as the bloodied image of Mr Oworu was from a movie shoot.

Dino Melaye shared a video of a session in the UK parliament featuring a caption, “game over for the APC as UK parliament confirm elections was rigged.” This was however misleading and utter disinformation as what the member of the UK parliament said in the video was that some members of her constituency and the European Union have expressed “Concerns of serious failures of technology, security and communication in the presidential election.” There was no mention of rigging or any political party.

CONCLUSION

Though the number of politically motivated killings appears to be slightly lower than in the month of February, political abductions appeared to have drastically taken center stage in the polity. There is therefore an urgent need for the authorities to take concrete action towards prosecuting election offenders that perpetrated election atrocities in these elections.



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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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



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!

13:01

Thread

@RetsonTedheke01

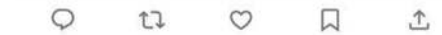
EVERY ONE OF MY POST on This Lagos Election Was Calculated To Make The YORUBAS Angry At The Madness of IPOB Influence Igbo Domination in Lagos.

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 @RetsonTedheke... · 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 replies 21 retweets 67 likes 6,210 views

Tweet your reply



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

+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.



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.



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