



BLOODY AUGUST

NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT'S VIOLENT
CRACKDOWN ON #ENDBADGOVERNANCE
PROTESTS

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



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1. ABBREVIATIONS

WORD	DESCRIPTION
ACHPR	African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
CAT	Convention Against Torture
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
NCAT	National Committee Against Torture
NPF	Nigerian Police Force
PPRO	Police Public Relation Officer
UN	United Nation

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This briefing documents attacks on the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression during the #EndBadGovernance protests in many parts of Nigeria, between 1–10 August 2024. Nigeria has a long-standing culture of violent attacks on peaceful protests, but with the #EndBadGovernance protests, the harassment and intimidation started ahead of, during and after the protests. The briefing seeks to ensure that demands for accountability will be heard and acted upon, impunity will be addressed, and victims will enjoy access to justice and effective remedies. The briefing will also call on the Nigerian authorities to take appropriate and effective measures to respect, protect, promote and fulfil the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, including by ending the killing, intimidation and harassment of protesters, arbitrary arrests and detention, and mass surveillance especially in the context of protests.

This briefing is the result of field research carried out by Amnesty International in Kano, Katsina, and Jigawa states from 12-17 August 2024. Amnesty International gathered evidence from videos and photographs, as well as death certificates, accounts from eyewitnesses and victims' parents, relatives, friends, and acquaintances on the ground, and information collected by human rights defenders, activists and journalists. Amnesty International's investigation found that the Nigeria police killed at least 24 protesters in Kano, Katsina, Jigawa, Kaduna, Niger, and Borno states. This reflects widespread nature of the crackdown on #EndBadGovernance protesters. The victims recorded include 20 young persons (3 females and 17 males), one older person, and two children. For each of the 24 deaths, Amnesty International has been able to gather credible information indicating the place, the circumstances of the deaths recorded, and their exact or approximate date.

Amnesty International believes the exact number of persons killed during the #EndBadGovernance protests is higher. The organization is aware of scores of additional cases reported by activists and journalists but has assessed that it does not yet have sufficient reliable information to record these possible deaths in its figures. In almost all cases the victims were shot by the police – firing live ammunition at close range, often at the head or torso, suggesting that they were shooting to kill. Of the survivors interviewed, two protesters suffered gunshot injuries after being shot in the arm and leg by the police. Several survivors were suffocated by indiscriminate use of tear gas.

The briefing documents the authorities' failures to guarantee and uphold the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, promptly, thoroughly, independently, impartially, transparently and effectively investigate allegations of attacks on protesters and bring to justice suspected perpetrators and provide access to justice and effective remedies as well as offer support services to survivors.

3. METHODOLOGY

Amnesty International conducted desk reviews and 41 interviews between 13 - 17 August 2024 in Kano, Jigawa, Katsina, Niger, and Maiduguri where people were killed during the #EndBadGovernance protests. The desk reviews were conducted using newspapers, journals, books, and articles.

The interviews were conducted with victims and survivors and their parents and relatives, eyewitnesses, lawyers, medical workers, activists, journalists and security experts. The organization obtained videos and photographs and details of killings, body injuries, hospital admission, death certificates and medical bills.

Permissions for acquisition of information, multimedia materials and use of evidence by Amnesty International were covered with consent forms signed by all interviewees whose information, pictures, voices, and evidence were acquired for the purpose of this research, including those who pleaded anonymity.

4. BACKGROUND

Protests play an important part in the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural life of all societies. In Nigeria, the government treats protest as either an inconvenience to be controlled or a threat to be extinguished and has continuously clamped down on peaceful protesters.

On 28 May 2014, suspected pro-government protesters attacked *#BringBackOurGirls* (BBOG) peaceful protesters at the Unity Fountain in Abuja, breaking their seats and forcibly confiscating their phones and cameras, while a group of police officers deployed to maintain law and order looked on. The BBOG protesters were calling for the release of more than 270 girls abducted by Boko Haram from their school in Chibok on 14-15 April 2014.¹ The police used the attack as an excuse to forcibly disperse the peaceful protests.

On 30 May 2016, during a peaceful event to mark Biafra Remembrance Day, security forces killed at least 60 people and injured about 70 members and supporters of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) at Nkpor and in Onitsha, Anambra State.²

On 8 August 2017, the *Our Mumu Don Do* group protesting in Abuja against the former president Muhammadu Buhari's prolonged medical vacation in London were attacked by the police using over 30 dogs³, water cannons, and tear gas. Veteran entertainer, Charly Boy, who led the protest, slumped while several others were wounded during the attack on protesters.⁴

On 27 and 29 October 2018, using excessive force, soldiers and police killed at least 45 supporters of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria (IMN) as the Shi'a Muslim group held a peaceful religious procession around Abuja, demanding the release of their leader, Sheik Ibrahim El Zakzaky, whose detention was described by a federal court in December 2016 as unlawful and unconstitutional. At least 122 IMN protesters sustained gunshot wounds during the clampdown.⁵

On 23 December 2019, about 60 pro-government protesters attacked civil society protesters demanding the release of prisoners of conscience Omoyele Sowore and Tunde Bakare at the National Human Rights Commission in Abuja. The protesters were planning to deliver a list of demands to the Commission. The attackers beat up the leader of the group, Deji Adeyanju. Police officers on the ground did not immediately intervene when the attack began.⁶

On 5 August 2020, the police and military personnel arrested *#RevolutionNow* protesters in Abuja. The protest was aimed at demanding good governance and justice from the Nigerian government.⁷ *#RevolutionNow* protest convener, Omoyele Sowore and Olawale Bakare faced unlawful detention and trumped-up charges of treasonable felony.

At least 56 people died across the country during the *#EndSARS* protest – seeking an end to years

1 Premium Times, 'Outrage as pro-govt. crowd attacks #BringBackOurGirls campaigners in Abuja', 29, May 2014 <https://www.premi-umtimesng.com/news/161650-outrage-as-pro-govt-crowd-attacks-bringbackourgirls-campaigners-in-abuja.html>.]

2 'Bullets were raining everywhere': Deadly repression of pro-Biafra activists' (AFR 44/5211/2016): See also Thisday, 'Dozens Killed, Several Injured as Biafra Day Rallies Turn Bloody', 31, May 2016. : <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2016/05/31/dozens-killed-several-injured-as-biafra-day-rallies-turn-bloody/>

3 TheGuardian 'Charly Boy slumps as police dogs attack anti-Buhari protesters', 9, August 2017 <https://guardian.ng/news/charly-boy-slumps-as-police-dogs-attack-anti-buhari-protesters/>.

4 Vanguard, 'Charly Boy slumps, others wounded as police fire tear gas at anti-Buhari protesters', 8, August 2017: <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2017/08/just-in-charly-boy-slumps-others-wounded-as-police-fire-tear-gas-at-protesters/>.

5 'Nigeria: killing of at least 45 peaceful Shi'a protesters must be investigated', <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/press-releases/nigeria-killing-least-45-peaceful-shia-protesters-must-be-investigated>

6 Business Insider, 'Pro-government group attacks rally demanding release of 'illegally' held Nigerians', 23, December 2019, <https://www.insider.com/pro-government-group-attacks-rally-demanding-release-of-illegally-held-nigerians-2019-12>.

7 TheGuardian, 'Police, army arrest #RevolutionNow protesters in Abuja, others', 5, August 2020, <https://guardian.ng/news/police-army-arrest-revolutionnow-protesters-in-abuja-others/>.

of police atrocities targeting youths.⁸ On 20 October 2020, the Nigerian army and police killed at least 12 peaceful protesters at Lekki and Alausa Lagos where thousands were protesting police brutality.

On 3 July 2021, *Yoruba Nation* protesters converged at the Gani Fawehinmi Freedom Park in Ojota, Lagos to demand an independent state for the southwest region.⁹ The police fired teargas and gunshots to disperse the protesters. Jumoke, a 25-year-old protester was shot dead by the police during the clampdown.¹⁰ Also, on 9 January 2023, one person was shot dead as the police fired live bullets at peaceful *Yoruba Nation* protesters at the same venue.¹¹

On 4 July 2021, five human rights activists were arrested at Dunamis International Gospel Centre Abuja for wearing *#BuhariMustGo* t-shirts. They were subsequently detained for 30 days by the Department of State Services (DSS), despite a Federal High Court order for their release.¹²

On 15 December 2021, the DSS and the police dispersed and arrested *#NorthIsBleeding* protesters¹³ who were calling for an end to the escalation of insecurity in northern Nigeria.¹⁴

On 2 March 2022, a group of women protested at the National Assembly complex in Abuja against the rejection of several bills seeking gender equality in Nigeria.¹⁵ On 22 March 2022, the protesting women crossed the gates to the National Assembly and began their *#OccupyNASS* chants but were harassed and stopped by security agents from making their way to the chambers.¹⁶ The women suspended the protest after lawmakers promised to reconsider the gender bills.

4.1 #EndBadGovernance Protests

The protest widely known by the hashtags *#EndBadGovernance* or *#EndBadGovernanceInNigeria* or *#HungerProtest*, took place from 1-10 August 2024. These protests were driven by widespread economic hardship, including the removal of fuel subsidies, staggering inflation, and the rising cost of living. Upon assuming office President Bola Tinubu unveiled chaotic economic policies that drove millions of people to the brink of starvation. While the government promised to mitigate the economic hardship, in reality, life is only getting harder for majority of the people. Where palliatives were provided to mitigate the hardship, sharing them was marred by corruption and mismanagement.

The protests were organized by a coalition of various activist groups and residents, including the Take It Back Movement, Nigerians Against Hunger, Initiative for Change, Human Rights Co-Advocacy for Change, Students for Change, and Youths Against Tyranny. These groups came together to voice their opinion on the current situation in the country.

8 Nigeria: Killing of *#EndSARS* protesters by the military must be investigated', <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/press-release/2020/10/killing-of-endsars-protesters-by-the-military-must-be-investigated/>.

9 Punch, 'Three protests that rocked Lagos in 2021', 16, December 2021: <https://punchng.com/three-protests-that-rocked-lagos-in-2021/>.

10 Channels, 'Court Indicts Police In Extrajudicial Killing Of Jumoke Oyeleke', 17, October 2022, <https://www.channelstv.com/2022/10/17/court-indicts-police-in-extrajudicial-killing-of-jumoke-oyeleke/>.

11 Punch, 'Yoruba Nation rally: Lagos police confirm one dead', 9, January 2023, <https://punchng.com/yoruba-nation-rally-lagos-police-confirm-one-dead/>.

12 The Sun, 'Court orders DSS to release 5 arrested in Dunamis Church', 27, July 2021 <https://www.sunnewsonline.com/court-orders-dss-to-release-5-arrested-in-dunamis-church/>.

13 '*#NorthIsBleeding* protests: FG under attack as DSS, police disperse, arrest demonstrators', 16, December 2021, <https://punchng.com/northisbleeding-protests-fg-under-attack-as-dss-police-disperse-arrest-demonstrators/>.

14 Sahara Reporters, '*#NorthIsBleeding* Protest: Anger As Police Arrest Protesters In Kano', <https://saharareporters.com/2021/12/15/northisbleeding-protest-anger-police-arrest-protesters-kano>

15 Premium Times, 'Nigerian women protest after lawmakers reject bills seeking gender equality', 2, March 2022, <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/514778-nigerian-women-protest-after-lawmakers-reject-bills-seeking-gender-equality.html>.

16 Punch, 'Gender bills: Women suspend protest at National Assembly', 22 March 2022, <https://punchng.com/gender-bills-women-suspend-protest-at-national-assembly/>.

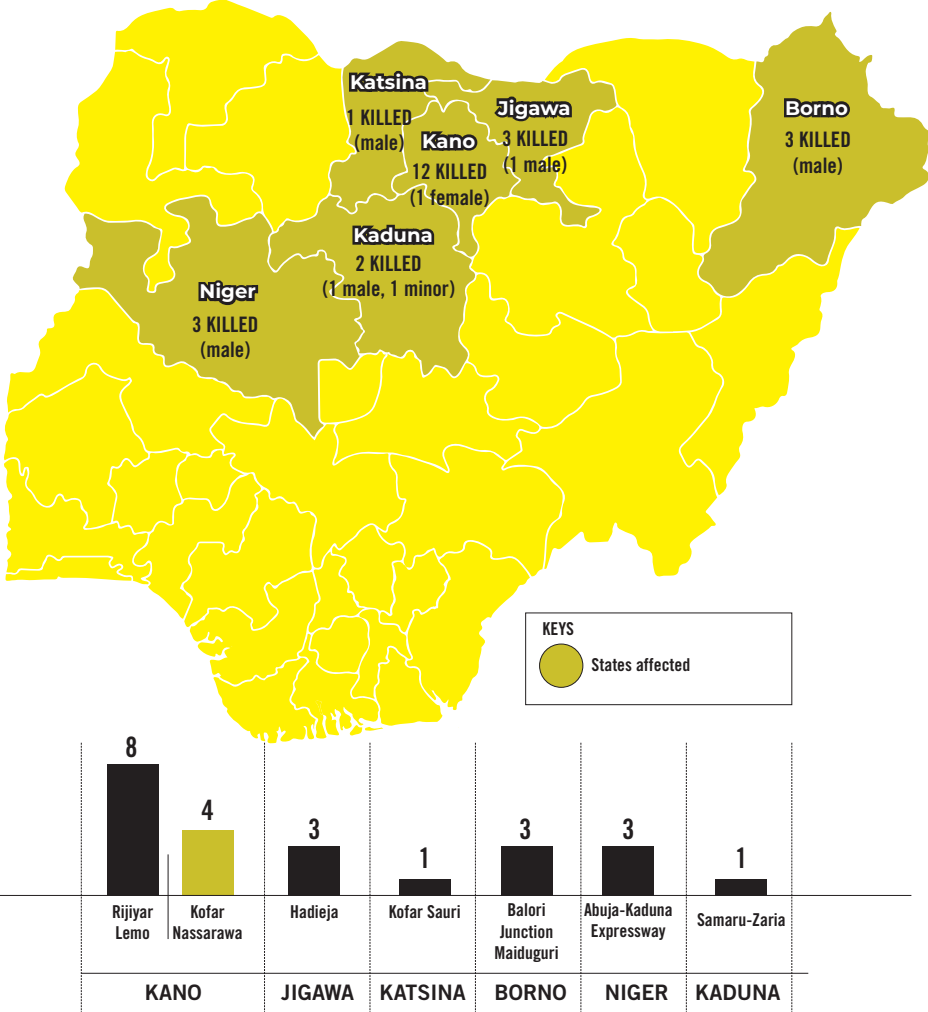
The Nigerian authorities employed several tactics to stop the protests, including public statements and veiled threats by security agencies and government officials. Weeks ahead of the protests, authorities worked hard to undermine it. President Bola Tinubu, traditional and religious leaders tried directly and indirectly to dissuade people from participating in the protest. Authorities also obtained several *ex parte* court orders to restrict access to protest venues, especially in Lagos and Abuja. Protesters were, however, determined to proceed with the protest.

Those who showed support for the protests on social media were attacked and many were arbitrarily arrested either by the police or the Department of State Services (DSS). Khalid Aminu was arrested by the DSS in Kaduna. He told Amnesty¹⁷ International that he was tortured for 60 days. He said that the DSS operatives started beating him and other protesters with sticks and iron cables. Michael Adamoye (widely known as Lenin) was detained for two months for being part of the protest in Abuja.

During the ten days of the protests, people demanded the reversal of government economic reforms, including the reinstatement of fuel subsidies and the cutting down of the cost of governance.

There was a heavy security presence during the protests. The government deployed the army, police, and the Department of Security Services to major protest sites. Security forces used tear gas, water cannons, and live ammunition to disperse the protest leading to violence and arrests. At least 24 protesters were killed, several persons were injured and over 1,200 protesters were arrested, including activists and journalists. Some protesters including minors have been charged with serious offences, including treason, and if found guilty could face the death penalty.

Locations of those killed during the protest



17 Amnesty International's interview with Khalid Aminu on 4 November 2024.

5. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

“... international law is clear that security forces policing demonstrations must not use firearms against protesters ...”

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and sections 39 and 40 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) guarantee the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association.

The Public Order Act, which requires organizers of protests to obtain police approval, appears to negate Section 40 of the 1999 Constitution. In *Inspector General of Police vs. ANPP*, the Court of Appeal quashed several sections of the Public Order Act, noting that notification is no longer required unless protest organizers wish to receive police protection. Despite the court's decision, the police continue to insist that protesters require a pass to hold a rally.

International law is clear that security forces policing demonstrations must not use firearms against protesters unless they pose an imminent threat of death or serious injury, and only if there is no lesser way to avert such threat. They must never use firearms to disperse a demonstration, even if it turns violent. Firearms must never be used as a tactical tool for the management of demonstrations. The only rare exception is to save another life.

Nigerian authorities have an obligation to conduct a prompt, thorough, independent, impartial, transparent and effective investigation into allegations of attacks on protesters and ensure to bring to justice those suspected to be responsible in fair trial and provide access to justice and effective remedies for victims.

6. CASES OF KILLINGS DURING #ENDBADGOVERNANCE PROTESTS

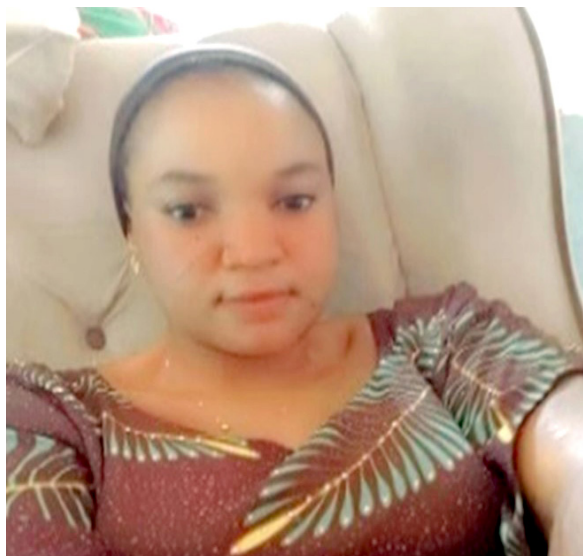
In this briefing, Amnesty International presents cases of killings by the Nigerian authorities during the nationwide #EndBadGovernance protests. The cases illustrate the trends and patterns of violent crackdown on people exercising the right to peaceful protest.

6.1 KILLINGS DURING #ENDBADGOVERNANCE PROTESTS

Name of victim	Gender	Age of victim	Address of victim	Marital status	Position of gunshot in the body	Status	Date killed
KANO STATE							
Salahuddeen Umar	Male	20	Rijiyar Lemo Darerawa street Kano state	Single	Leg	Killed	3 August 2024
Usman Hassan	Male	22	Rijiyar Lemo Jajira Street Kano state	Single	Stomach	Killed	3 August 2024
Fa'izu Abdullahi	Male	20	Kurna Falwaya street Kano state	Single	Neck	Killed	1 August 2024
Muhammad Sani	Male	5	Rijiyar Lemo, Kotu street Kano state	Single	Lap	Killed	3 August 2024
Nanah-Firdausi Haruna	Female	35	Yamman Gabas Rijiyar Lemo Kano state	Single	Head	Killed	3 August 2024
Abdulmalik Auwalu Abdulsalam	Male	21	Kofar Nasarawa Kano state	Single	Stomach	Killed	9 August 2024
Bashir Lawan	Male	22	Rijiyar Lemo Kotu street Kano state	Single	Stomach and leg	Killed	3 August 2024
Habibu Falalu	Male	16	Rijiyar Lemo Daiba street Kano state	Single	N/A	Killed	1 August 2024
Abduljalal Yusuf	Male	N/A	Rijiyar Lemo, Ajira Street Kano state	Married	Head	Killed	3 August 2024
Aliyu Abdullahi	Male	19	Kofar Nasarawa Kano state	Single	Neck	Killed	3 August 2024
Bashir Abdullahi Salihu	Male	18	Bachirawa Darerawa – Kofar Nassarawa Kano state	Single	Stomach	Killed	1 August 2024

Name of victim	Gender	Age of victim	Address of victim	Marital status	Position of gunshot in the body	Status	Date killed
Mustapha (Dan-Jummai)	Male	63	Yakasai, Kofar Nassarawa Kano state	Married	Stomach	Killed	3 August 2024
JIGAWA STATE							
Halima Abdullahi	Female	28	Hadieja, Jigawa state	Single	Head	Killed	3 August 2024
RabiuSalihu	Male	20	Dutse, Jigawa state	Single	Head	Killed	2 August 2024
Sadiya Sabi'u	Female	20	Hadieja Jigawa State	Single	Waist	Killed	3 August 2024
KATSINA STATE							
Shafi'u Mukhtar	Male	21	Katsina state	Single	Back to stomach	Killed	5 August 2024
NIGER STATE							
Yahaya Isa	Male	32	Suleja, Niger state	Married	N/A	Killed	1 August 2024
Muhammadu Bunkau	Male	38	Suleja, Niger state	Married	Head	Killed	1 August 2024
Musa Muhammadu	Male	N/A	Suleja, Niger state	N/A	N/A	Killed	3 August 2024
BORNO STATE							
Nasiru Mustapha	Male	26	Ngomari, Jajere Local Government, Borno state	Single	N/A	Killed	1 August 2024
Momodu Hassan	Male	29	Malamfatori, Abadam Local Government, Borno state	Single	N/A	Killed	1 August 2024
Amodu Garba Maina	Male	24	Malamfatori, Abadam Local Government, Borno state	Married	N/A	Killed	1 August 2024
KADUNA STATE							
Ismail Mohammed		16	Sarkin Pawa Road, Hayin Dogo Samaru-Zaria	Single	Stomach	Killed	6 August 2024
Abubakar Adam Abdullahi	Male	24	Kaduna, Kaduna state	N/A	Chest	Killed	1 August 2024

NANAH-FIRDAUSI HARUNA



Picture of 30-year-old Nanah-Firdausi Haruna of 'Yanman Gabas Rijiyar Lemo Dala local government area of Kano state'¹⁸

On 3 August 2024, Nana-Firdausi Haruna was cooking meal for the entire family. The fire she was using for the cooking fizzled out. She quickly went to buy more charcoal. After taking few steps out of her family house, she was shot dead in the head by the police. The 30-year-old Firdausi was shot by a policeman in the alley of her neighbourhood.

A single mother of two boys, Firdausi was killed barely a month before her remarriage. Firdausi's mother showed Amnesty International the bridal accessories bought ahead of the wedding. "I couldn't believe it when her dead body with a brutal gunshot was brought back to me here. The "Jarumin Maza" (referring to the policeman that shot Firdausi), has ended my daughter's life", Firdausi's mother cried. "Now they have killed her and left us in permanent grief, no daughter, no justice! We are helpless and it is only Allah that can revenge for us"

An eyewitness who told Amnesty International that he witnessed when Firdausi was shot by a policeman said, "I was there when Firdausi fell on the ground, when I saw that, other people and I ran for our lives. When the storm was over, we came out from hiding, Firdausi was lying on the ground in blood, we picked her dead body up and took it to her mother at home who wept and repeated "Allah-Ya-isa, sun cuce ni ", meaning, "Allah is sufficient for me, you[the police] have cheated me, I won't forgive you." When Amnesty International asked whether the Nigeria police or any other government official had reached out to the family, she replied: "No", and cried for justice.

18 Nanah-Firdausi's picture was acquired on August 13, 2024, from her mother during Amnesty International's investigation of hunger protest killings in Kano.

MUHAMMAD SANI



Picture of 5-year-old Muhammad Sani of Rijiyar Lemo Dala Local government Area of Kano State, after allegedly being shot dead by a police officer.¹⁹

On 3 August 2024, Muhammad Sani was shot dead. The bullet pierced his lap. Muhammad's mother said, "He is my son, I gave birth to him, and he's in Daiba school. On that fateful day, Muhammad requested for money to buy pap, I told him I didn't have much money to give. I rather cook rice for the whole family with the money he requested for. He runs all my errands around the neighbourhood. His grandmother also usually sends him to buy kolanuts for her.

On that fateful day they went out to play along with his siblings when I heard the gunshot. I quickly went out to call them to return home, I then heard his brother shouting, "Umma, the police have shot Muhammad dead". "The information of the killing was unbelievable to me. Lying on the floor, Muhammad started shouting and crying calling my name. At the same time, I noticed his hand was tightly on his lap, trying to pull out his trousers which I helped him out with, the lap was full of blood. He became unstable.

He died while calling my name "Umma! Umma!!, (mother, mother), then he fell and closed his eyes. From the moment he fell, I stopped looking at him, I refused to watch the video and pictures of my son, I couldn't stand looking at that little boy in such pain. My heart aches whenever I remember that incident. I wish he fell sick and died rather than going through such pain as an innocent child shot by the police."

ISMAIL MOHAMMED



Picture of 16 years old Ismail Muham-mad of Samaru, Zaria local government area of Kaduna state who was shot dead by an Army officer²⁰

¹⁹ Muhammad Sani's picture was acquired on August 13, 2024, from his senior brother during Amnesty International's investigation of hunger protest killings in Kano.

²⁰ Photo sourced from: Daily Nigerian, 9, August 2024 <https://dailynigerian.com/protest-gov-sani-promises/>

On 6 August 2024, Ismail Mohammed was shot and killed by a Nigerian army officer mobilised to disperse a mob in Samaru area of Sabon Gari local government area of Kaduna state during the #EndBadGovernance protest. As reported in Punch newspaper, “A soldier with the Nigerian Army, on Tuesday, 6 August 2024 shot dead a 16-year-old #EndBadGovernanceInNigeria protester in the Samaru community in Zaria, Kaduna State. According to the father, his son, about 16 years old was outside the house when the soldiers started shooting. He ran inside and locked the door, but the soldiers followed him and shot through the door. “I was at Hayin Dogo when Abubakar called to tell me what happened. But it was after an hour that I was able to reach home after Ismail was killed.”

According to media reports, “Earlier on Tuesday, the Inspector General of Police, Kayode Egbetokun, had said the police, military, and other agencies involved in the management of the #EndBadGovernance protest did not use live ammunition during the protests.”²¹

Muhammad’s mother Zainab Sani told Vanguard newspaper that “the shooting occurred around 9.00 a.m at their residence at Sarkin Pawa Street, Samaru, Zaria, by a trigger-happy soldier on patrol alongside his colleagues.”²²

Musa Sule, a human rights activist told Amnesty International that “if the police and the army said they didn’t use live ammunition on the protesters, how come the Army admitted to killing Ismail Mohammed to the extent of providing N300,000.00 to his family as a compensation.”

USMAN HASSAN



Picture of 20-year-old Usman Hassan, Garba Dan Sanda Street, Rijiyar Lemo Kano state who was allegedly shot dead by a police officer

On August 3, 2024, Usman Hassan was shot dead by a police officer. Usman’s mother who spoke in tears told Amnesty International that “He told me he was going out to protest, I told him not to join the protest. That was the last time I saw him.”

An eyewitness told Amnesty International that Usman saw a small boy who was shot by a policeman. Usman helped and rushed the boy to Salamatu Hospital. On leaving the hospital, Usman turned to the policeman who shot the boy, and he questioned him about the reason for shooting the boy. In response, the policeman triggered the bullet twice and shot Usman who instantly fell.

“He was still alive when I went to the hospital, he told me he recalled the face of the policeman

21 Punch Newspaper’s publication titled “Soldier shoots 16-year-old #EndBadGovernanceInNigeria protester dead in Kaduna” Sourced from <https://punchng.com/soldier-shoots-16-year-old-endbadgovernanceinnigeria-protester-dead-in-kaduna/> on Augst 7, 2024

22 Vanguard publication titled “Protest: Soldiers followed my son home, shot him – Zaria man alleges” Sourced from <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2024/08/protest-soldiers-followed-my-son-home-shot-him-zaria-man-alleges/> on August 7, 2024

who shot him. We will never forgive and forget this incident; we need justice for Usman”.

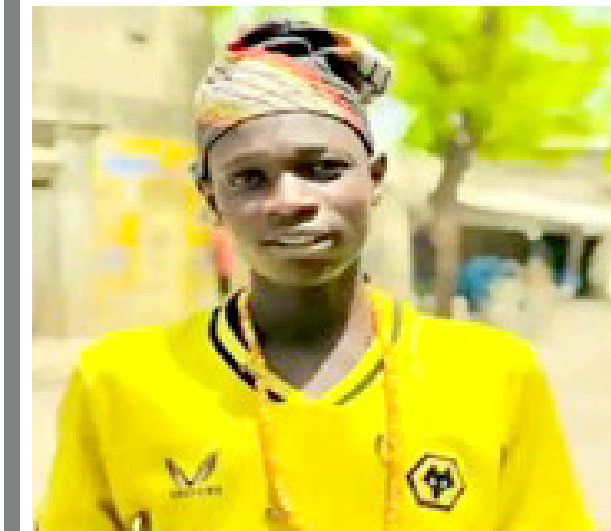
SALAHUDEEN UMAR



Picture of 20-year-old Salahuddeen Umar of Darerawa Street, Rijiyar Lemo Kano state who was shot dead by a police officer

Salahuddeen Umar was killed by a policeman on the third day of the protest. When Amnesty International visited Salahuddeen’s father in his home, he was sitting distraught in Salahuddeen’s room, watching a video of the Kano state Police Public Relations Officer denying that there were any killings in the state during the protest. He told Amnesty International that: “On 3 August 2024, Salahuddeen Umar was sick. His schoolmates came to visit him to find out the condition of his health. After the visit, he decided to see them off the street and it was then he was shot by a policeman. After the incident, he was taken to a hospital where he died. Until now we haven’t got any justice or consolation from the police. We need justice in this matter. For the first ten days since I lost my son, I haven’t been able to sleep in my house. I want the government to do justice.”

FA’IZU ABDULLAHI



Picture of 20-year-old Fa'izu Abdullahi of Falwaya Street, Rijiyar Lemo Kano state who was shot dead by a police officer.

Fa’izu, the fifth son in his family. He attended a school in Gwammaja, and he works as a carpenter in Gwammaja. On 1 August 2024, Fa’izu Abdulahi was shot dead by the police. Fa’izu’s father told Amnesty International “I got the bad news 5 minutes after he stepped out of the house. He was shot in the neck by a policeman.

On the street, Fa’izu was asked to raise his hands and surrender to the police, which he did, but despite raising his hands, the police shot him. We saw it in the video. A neighbour of ours has the pictures and the video. I will never forgive the person who killed my lovely and obedient son.” The

family has kept the video and pictures of the moment police shot Fa'izu. .

ABDULJALAL YUSUF



Picture Abduljal Yusuf of Rijiyar Lemo Kano state who was shot dead by a police officer.

Abduljalal runs a provision shop. On 3 August 2024, Abduljalal was in his shop as usual, and he noticed that some police officers were on patrols. An eyewitness in a storey building near Abduljalal's shop told Amnesty International that he saw when the police shot sporadically, and some bullets pierced through Abduljalal's shop. "At first we didn't realize he was inside the shop until after the police left, we checked and found his dead body,"

Abduljalal's grandparents told Amnesty International that they are almost 90 years old and helpless. "He was the one who was taking care of our needs. Now he is gone. We can't walk, we can't even do any work, we are finished!!"

BASHIR LAWAN



Picture of 22-year-old Bashir Lawan of Rijiyar Lemo Kano state who was shot dead by a police officer.

On 3 August 2024, Bashir was sick. His father said "My son was having a toothache. He went out to buy drugs and was confronted by the police. At close range, a policeman shot him in the leg and the stomach. People around the vicinity took him to a nearby hospital where he was referred to Murtala General Hospital. He died on the way to the hospital." An eyewitness told Amnesty International "I saw when Bashir was shot dead by a policeman, but the Kano police spokesperson denied it. We need justice for our kids. He had great plans."

ALIYU ABDULLAHI



Picture of 19-year-old Aliyu Abdullahi of Kofar Nassarawa, Kano state who was shot dead by a police officer

Aliyu Abdullahi was killed by a policeman two days before his birthday. His father told Amnesty International: “On 3 August 2024, he was shot along with two of his friends. Two of them died and the other boy lost six of his teeth. The boys who brought Aliyu’s body home were shouting that they must avenge his death because he was innocent. Aliyu died on the way to the hospital. Nobody came to me apart from you people”.

ABDULMALIK AUWAL ABDULSALAM



Picture of 21-year-old Abdulmalik Auwal Abdulsalam of Kofar Nassarawa Kano state who was shot dead by a Nigeria police officer

In tears, the father of Abdulmalik Auwal Abdulsalam said his son was shot in the stomach by the police on 3 August 2024. Abdulmalik’s father told Amnesty International: “My son sustained a fatal injury that resulted in his digestive organs protruding out of his body. He was taken to Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital where he spent six days before he died on 9 August 2024. There has been no intervention from the government.”

HABIBU FALALU



Picture of 16-year-old Habibu Falalu of Rijiyar Lemo Kano state who was shot dead by a police officer.

Habibu Falalu had no inkling that 1 August 2024 was his last day on earth. On the first day of the #Endbadgovernance protests, Police officers took over the streets of Rijiyar Lemo. Like other teenagers, Habibu Falalu was standing in front of the house of Malam Sharif.

While gunshots were coming from all directions, people noticed that Habibu fell on the ground. Within minutes he was in a pool of blood. Police took positions at Rijiyar Lemo and were shooting sporadically. Habibu's father told Amnesty International "I came and saw his body full of blood.

Another eyewitness told Amnesty International that: "Within this vicinity, I can't recall the number of people affected but there are many. I know someone who was injured, he had a wound on his leg. There is another one that I know, at Kurna Falwaya Street who died, I know of a woman from Senegal Street who died and someone from Garba Dan Sanda Street who died. Those shot were people I know, and some were not more than seven-years old."

BASHIR ABDULLAHI SALISU



Picture of 18-year-old Bashir Abdullahi Salisu of Bachirawa-Darerawa, Fagge Local Government Kano state who was shot dead by a police officer.

Bashir was shot by the police between the Kurna and Bachirawa axis. He was shot in the stomach and he was alone when they shot him. An witness said that Bashir didn't join the protest and he wasn't in a crowd. The witness further said: "I heard that the police say they didn't shoot nor kill anybody between 1-10 August 2024. Well, I'm a living witness when Bashir was shot on that day (1 August 2024) around noon and was buried that very day."

MUSTAPHA (DAN-JUMMAI)



Picture of 63-year-old Mustapha (Dan-Jummai) of Yakasai, Kofar Nassarawa, Kano state who was shot dead by a police officer.

Mustapha was in his shop on 3 August 2024 when the police stormed the area and fired bullets in his direction. Mustapha's neighbour told Amnesty International: "When some children told me that Mustapha was shot by the police, I rushed to the place and saw the policemen entered their vehicle and drove off the scene. I found Mustapha with his intestine pouring on the floor. I rushed him to the hospital where he was confirmed dead."

HALIMA ABDULLAHI



Picture of 28-year-old Halima Abdullahi of Hadejia, Jigawa state who was shot dead by a police officer

Halima Abdullahi was shot in the head during the protest on 3 August 2024. She was taken to Hadejia General Hospital. Thereafter she was referred to Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital where she died.

RABIU SALIHU

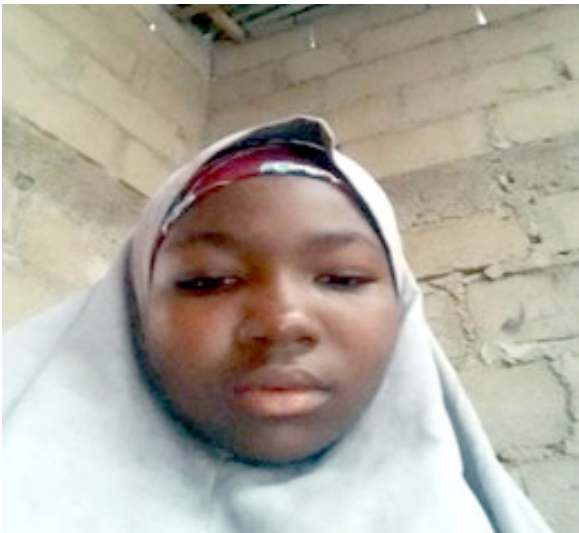


Picture of 20-year-old Rabiu Salihu of Dangan Tsaure Dutse, Jigawa State who was shot dead by a police officer

On 1 August 2024, Rabiu Salihu was shot in the head by the police in front of the Jigawa State Government House and taken to the General Hospital Dutse, where he died on 2 August 2024.

Rabiu's uncle told Amnesty International: "Nobody from the Government came to sympathize with us. At least someone from the Government should have come and shown some sympathy. We are not happy with what happened."

SADIYA SABI'U

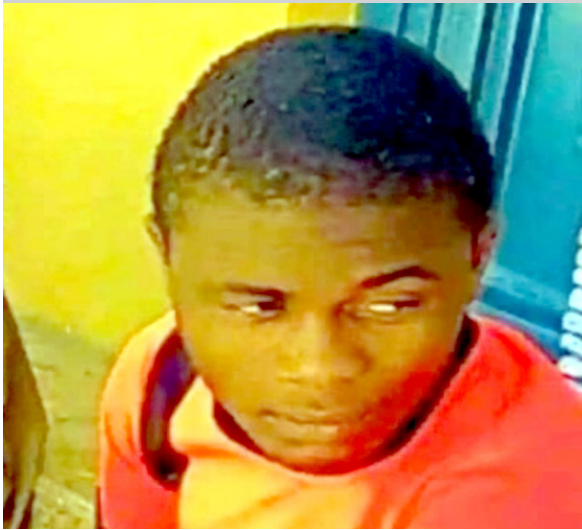


Picture of 20-year-old Sadiya Sabi'u of Shuwarin town Hadejia-Jigawa state who was shot dead by a police officer

Sadiya Sabi'u was killed by the police on 3 August 2024. Her father Mallam Sabi'u told Amnesty International: "Sadiya was sent to buy something when they shot her. She was shot by the police behind her waist and the bullet came out through the front. While at home, I got a phone call about the incident.

After shooting her, the police did not allow anybody to take her to the hospital. It took them time before they allowed people to help her to the hospital. We were rejected in the first hospital due to lack of facilities and were advised to take her to another hospital. I took her on a motorbike because we couldn't get healthcare. The police kept denying the fact that they shot people in Shuwari town. We thought the government would say something about the incident, yet nothing came."

SHAFIU MUKHTAR



*Picture of 21-year-old Shafiu Mukhtar of
Filin Samji Kofa Sauri Katsina State.*

On 5 August 2024, Shafiu Mukhtar was shot dead by the police. One of Shafiu's friend who was with him at the time of the incident told Amnesty International: "he was shot in the back. We made several attempts to rush him to the hospital while he was bleeding but were chased away by the police. We could probably have saved his life if we were not chased by the police and dispersed with teargas."

Shafiu's father told Amnesty International "If they actually aimed at maintaining peace and controlling the protesters, why use excessive force and kill innocent people? I will neither forget nor forgive."

NASIRU MUSTAPHA



*Picture of 26-year-old Nasiru Mustapha,
Borno*

In the morning of 1 August 2024 during the #EndBadGovernance protest, Nasiru Mustapha was working with his colleagues at A.A. Kime filling station around Bolori Junction in Maiduguri. A hand grenade was thrown by a police officer in a passing vehicle resulting in the death of Nasiru.

AMODU GARBA MAINA



Picture of 24-year-old Amodu Garba Maina

24-year-old Amodu Garba Maina of Mallam Fatori in Abadam local government area of Borno state - a student of Ramat Polytechnic Maiduguri and petrol attendant at A.A Kime filling station Bolori Junction Maiduguri was killed on 1 August 2024 during the #EndBadGovernance protest.

Amodu's father told Amnesty International: "Amodu and his colleagues were in the filling station selling fuel. When they noticed the protest was getting serious, they stopped selling the fuel and sat down. A convey of police vehicles when approaching the filling station threw a hand grenade at the filling station and teargas. At once three people died including Amodu."

MOMODU HASSAN



Picture of 26-year-old Momodu Hassan

On 1 August 2024, Momodu Hassan killed by a hand grenade thrown by the police in a convoy that was passing by A.A Kime filling station at Bolori junction where he was working.

MUHAMMADU BUNKAU



Picture of 38-year-old Muhammadu Bunkau, a truck driver from Sabon Wuse, Niger state who was shot dead by a police officer

On 1 August 2024, 38-year-old Muhammadu Bunkau, a truck driver from Sabon Wuse, was shot by the police on the Abuja-Kaduna express way as the #EndBadGovernance protest was ongoing, and he died.²³ His sister shared the picture of his lifeless body lying between the highway demarcations along Abuja-Kaduna Road in Sabon Wuse.²⁴

YAHAYA ISAH



Picture of a 32-year-old Yahaya Isah of Church Road, Suleja, Niger state who was shot dead by a police officer

Yahaya Isah, a father of one, was a resident of Suleja. On 1 August 2024, he was shot by the police during the #EndBadGovernance protest. According to a media report, a bullet fired by the police pierced through his left ear and exited around his right cranium. He died on the spot.²⁵

23 Premium Times, “How police killed, injured protesters during #EndBadGovernance protests in Niger state” 18 August 2024, <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/725330-how-police-killed-injured-protesters-during-endbadgovernance-protests-in-niger-state.html>

24 Premium Times, “How police killed, injured protesters during #EndBadGovernance protests in Niger state” 18 August 2024, <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/725330-how-police-killed-injured-protesters-during-endbadgovernance-protests-in-niger-state.html>

25 Premium Times, “How police killed, injured protesters during #EndBadGovernance protests in Niger state” 18 August 2024, <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/725330-how-police-killed-injured-protesters-during-endbadgovernance-protests-in-niger-state.html>

MUSA MUHAMMADU



Musa Muhammadu of Suleja. Picture was not available at the time of Amnesty International's research.

On 5 August 2024, Musa Muhammadu, a commercial motorcyclist, was shot and killed by the police during the protests in Suleja Niger state. He died on the spot.²⁶

ABUBAKAR ADAM ABDULLAHI



Picture of 24-year-old Abubakar Adam Abdullahi who was shot dead by the police in Kaduna, Kaduna state

Abubakar Adam Abdullahi, a 24-year-old tailor, was killed on 1 October 2024 by the police in Kaduna during the #EndBadGovernance protests. A video footage filmed at the time of Abubakar's death shows him and other protesters trying to run away as if being chased. Moments later, police opened fire on the protesters, shot Abubakar in the chest. The video footage then shows Abubakar falling to the ground. His friends can be heard shouting "officer stop" and "they shot him" in the Hausa language. He was rushed to Yusuf Dantsoho hospital where he died.²⁷

According to Abubakar's brother, "It was shocking when we got a call to come to the hospital after he was shot because we know he wasn't violent. We later saw videos of him sitting or talking to friends during the protest which also proved he wasn't misbehaving. All we want is justice for our brother."²⁸

26 Premium Times, "How police killed, injured protesters during #EndBadGovernance protests in Niger state" 18 August 2024, <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/725330-how-police-killed-injured-protesters-during-endbadgovernance-protests-in-niger-state.html>

27 BBC News, "Family of killed Nigerian protester demand justice", 5 August 2024, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cwyjix-qx31lo.amp>

28 BBC News, "Family of killed Nigerian protester demand justice", 5 August 2024, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cwyjixq31lo.amp>

7. PATTERNS OF EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS

7.1 EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE BY THE POLICE

Amnesty International findings show several cases of violent attacks on protesters during the #EndBadGovernance protests which took place between 1-10 August 2024. Eyewitnesses told Amnesty International in Kano, Dutse, Kaduna, Katsina, and Minna that the protests were largely peaceful before the police attacked them. The excessive use of force against protesters contravenes international human rights standards, including the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials.

The right to peaceful assembly is vital in a free society, for people to express their grievances and advocate for change. However, this right is often aggressively suppressed by the Nigerian authorities. When police aggression escalates, protesters are forced to run for their lives, abandoning their right to assemble and express themselves. In many cases, police ignored attempts by sponsored thugs to destabilize peaceful protests.

The consequences of police aggression are far-reaching and devastating. Protesters face physical harm, emotional trauma, and legal repercussions, which can have long-lasting effects on their lives. The use of excessive force also erodes trust in law enforcement, undermining community relationships and hindering efforts to address social injustices. Moreover, police aggression can escalate conflicts, creating a cycle of violence that threatens public safety and stability.

The use of excessive force by police undermines trust and escalates tensions, perpetuating a cycle of violence. It is crucial to address these incidents and ensure that protesters can exercise their rights safely and peacefully. Eyewitnesses told Amnesty International that police officers shoot live bullets at protesters in Kano. In a video seen by Amnesty International, the protesters were running away from the police. The protesters had no visible weapons and did not pose any apparent threat to the police. The Nigerian police in almost all cases approach peaceful protesters with live bullets. Our investigation indicates that law agencies in Nigeria did not exercise any form of restraint during the #EndBadGovernance protests. The police did not respect international human rights law and did not follow the United Nations Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials, which provides that police should only resort to the use of force exceptionally, when strictly necessary and proportionate in pursuit of a legitimate law enforcement purpose.

7.2 KILLINGS AND DENIALS BY THE POLICE

“... when Amnesty International visited Salahuddeen’s father in his home, he was sitting distraught in Salahuddeen’s room, watching a video of the Kano state Police Public Relations Officer denying that there were any killings in the state during the protests ...”

Amnesty International’s research in Kano, Dutse, Katsina, and Minna shows that the police’s killings of protesters are a grave violation of human rights and a stark reminder of the country’s troubled history of suppressing peaceful dissent.

The killings of protesters by the Nigeria Police Force have been characterized by a blatant disregard for human life and a culture of impunity. In Kano, Dutse, Katsina, and Minna, the police shot and killed peaceful protesters with live ammunition, often at close range, and in some cases, dragging their bodies away to conceal evidence. The victims of these killings are mostly young people, students, and

activists who are advocating for social justice, good governance, and an end to corruption. Their deaths are a stark reminder of the risks associated with speaking truth to power and demanding accountability in Nigeria. The response of the police and Nigerian authorities to violent crackdown on protesters have been that of denial, in all the cases.

Despite unimpeachable evidence obtained by Amnesty International, of the killing of the protesters by the police, the Nigeria police issued statements blatantly denying the killings.

In a statement dated August 4, 2024, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) for the Niger State Police Command, Wasiu Abiodun, claimed.

“There was no life lost.”²⁹

“The police did not kill any protester.”³⁰

The Nigeria Police Force’s denial of the killing of protesters is a disturbing trend that undermines trust, perpetuates impunity, and exacerbates the cycle of violence. Despite overwhelming evidence, including eyewitness accounts, videos, and photographs, the police have consistently denied involvement in the killings, dismissing them as “fake news” or attributing them to “unknown gunmen.” For example, Niger State Commissioner of Police, CP Shawulu Danmamman, was in Tafa LGA Secretariat for an on-the-spot assessment, after which he moved to Suleja Area Command. While taking a tour of the affected area, he stated that:

“I did not see or receive any report of the killing of protesters in the Tafa and Suleja areas... security agencies responded, made arrests, and dispersed the hoodlums, but there was no loss of life, and violent protesters were dispersed with minimum force.”³¹

7.3 SPORADIC SHOOTING AND RECKLESS USE OF TEARGAS

Despite clear cases of killing of protesters, following the brutal crackdown on #Hunger protesters, the police have continued to deny complicity in the killings. The police’s denial of the killing of protesters is a disturbing trend that undermines trust, perpetuates impunity, and exacerbates the cycle of violence. Despite overwhelming evidence, including eyewitness accounts, videos, and photographs, the police have consistently denied involvement in the killings, dismissing them as “fake news.”³²

The denial by the police is an attempt to conceal the truth, avoid accountability, and maintain a veneer of innocence. The denial further erodes trust between law enforcement institutions and the public, making it harder to build cooperation and address security challenges. It emboldens perpetrators, perpetuating a culture of impunity and encouraging further human rights abuses. By

29 Premium Times, “How police killed, injured protesters during #EndBadGovernance protests in Niger state” 18 August 2024, <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/725330-how-police-killed-injured-protesters-during-endbadgovernance-protests-in-niger-state.html>;

Solace Base, “Kano Youths Protest Alleged Killing of Colleague by police” 19 October 2024, <https://solacebase.com/kano-youths-protest-alleged-killing-of-colleague-by-police/> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oUuwfZ0mpTA>

30 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p5NrB3AibI0>

31 Bitv., “Nigeria Protests: Six Persons Not Killed In Suleja/Tafa Violent Protest, Says Niger Police” 2 August 2024, <https://crimefighter-sng.com/nigeria-protests-six-persons-not-killed-in-suleja-tafa-violent-protest-says-niger-police/> Vanguard, “Hardship protest: Police accused of mass killings”, 4 August 2024, <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2024/08/hardship-protest-police-accused-of-mass-killings/> Sahara Reporters, “#EndBadGovernance meet deadly force: At least 10 Nigerian killed by security operatives”, 1 August 2024, <https://saharareporters.com/2024/08/01/endbadgovernance-protests-meet-deadly-force-least-10-nigerians-killed-security> Daily Trust, “I swear to God, I will kill, How policeman threatened #EndBadGovernance Protesters”, 4 August 2024, <https://dailytrust.com/i-swear-to-god-i-will-kill-how-policeman-threatened-endbadgovernance-protesters/>

32 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbzzUP7-m4k>

acknowledging the truth and taking responsibility, the police can begin to rebuild trust, promote accountability, and uphold their duty to protect and serve the people.

7.4 ARBITRARY ARREST OF PROTESTERS

According to the National Human Rights Commission, 1,200 #EndBadGovernance protesters have been arrested and detained by security agencies.³³ While some of the arrested protesters have been arraigned in court, most of them are being detained beyond the permitted constitutional limit before being taken to court.

On 24 August, a court granted an order to the police to hold 124 arrested protesters for 60 days pending the conclusion of the investigation and filing of charges, in clear contravention of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act.³⁴ The Act provides that pretrial detention orders should not exceed 14 days, following which another application by the police can be made for 14 more days, stating why an extension is necessary. Following the order, all the arrested 124 protesters, including children, were transferred from police custody to correctional centres.

On 2 September 2024, the Nigerian authorities arraigned 10 #EndBadGovernance protesters - Michael Tobiloba Adaramoye (aka Lenin), Adeyemi Abiodun Abayomi (aka Yomi), Suleiman Yakubu, Comrade Opaluwa Elejo Simeon, Angel Innocent, Buhari Lawal, Mosiu Sadiq, Bashir Bello (aka Murtala), Nurudeen Khamis, and Abdulsalam Zubairu - before a federal high court in Abuja for alleged treason, intent to destabilize Nigeria, conspiracy to commit felony and inciting to mutiny, an offense punishable under section 97 of the penal code.

Before their arraignment on 2 September 2024, the arrested protesters were denied access to family, legal assistance, and medical care where needed. The protesters were arraigned, handcuffed, looked malnourished, and had rashes on their bodies.

Amnesty International views these attempts by the Nigerian authorities to charge those who protested widespread poverty and rampant corruption with ‘treason as’ being beyond absurd and baseless, and a bizarre attempt to deprive people of the right to peaceful protest. The sham trial is a disguised exercise solely aimed at punishing those who express their opinions against policies of the government.

Moreover, Amnesty International’s findings indicate that the Nigerian government has been placing priority on punishing protesters, without saying little or nothing about the need to thoroughly and effectively investigate the killing of dozens of protesters across Kano, Katsina, Suleja/Tafa, Jigawa, and Maiduguri, bring suspected perpetrators to justice in fair trial and provide access to justice and effective remedies for victims. Our findings also show that several protesters were subjected to shocking violations by security personnel, including excessive use of force and misuse of tear gas. On 1 November, after being arrested and ill-treated, 114 #EndBadGovernance protesters were arraigned in groups at a federal high court in Abuja. 27 of those arraigned in one of the groups were minors, four of whom collapsed in the courtroom, having spent more than two months detained in appalling conditions. In Katsina state, 12 children under 16 were also facing an unfair trial, charged with participating in the #EndBadGovernance protests. Many of these children were arrested simply for being on the streets during the protests.³⁵ On 4 November, the Borno state government arraigned 19 protesters, including three minors, at a State High Court in Maiduguri on bogus charges of “treason and using social media to defame the state governor, Babagana Zulum, and incite citizens against the state.”³⁶ On 5 November, the Nigerian authorities withdrew the

33 The Guardian, “1200 #EndBadGovernance protesters arrested – NHRC”, 6 September 2024, [1,200 #EndBadGovernance protesters arrested - NHRC — Nigeria — The Guardian Nigeria News – Nigeria and World News](https://www.theguardian.com/nigeria/news/2024/09/06/1200-endbadgovernance-protesters-arrested-nhrc)

34 <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2024/09/02/police-arraign-10-endbadgovernance-protesters-over-alleged-treason-mutiny/>

35 Amnesty International, “Nigeria: President Tinubu must release all #EndBadGovernance Protesters”, 1 November 2024, https://www.amnesty.org.ng/2024/11/01/nigeria-president-tinubu-must-release-all-endbadgovernance-protesters/?_thumbnail_id=2664

36 Daily Trust, “#EndBadGovernance: Police arraign minors, others in Borno for treason” 4 November 2024, <https://dailytrust.com/endbadgovernance-police-arraign-minors-others-in-borno-for-treason/>; The Punch, “EndBadGovernance: Tinubu orders AGF to free minors facing trial”, 5 November 2024, <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2024/11/endbadgovernance-tinubu-orders-agf-to-free-minors-facing-trial/>

treason charges against the minors, and the charges were struck out.³⁷

7.5 EFFECTS OF VIOLENT CRACKDOWN ON PROTESTERS

Despite widespread denial, Amnesty International investigation exposes the killings of #EndBadGovernance protesters by Nigeria police. Field work shows that the injuries and parts of the body at which police shot protesters were solely aimed to kill.

The families of the protesters killed were saddened not only by the killings of their loved ones but also by the denial by the police.³⁸ This denial is unsustainable in the face of overwhelming evidence acquired by Amnesty International.

“...It is even more traumatic and disheartening while I am battling with the grief of my killed son, to watch the police PRO making announcement that nobody was killed in the protest. I watched this announcement repeatedly with utter dismay. I will never forgive this crime.”³⁹

— Father of a victim killed in Kano

The Nigeria Police Force’s killing of protests has left an indelible mark on the lives of families who have lost loved ones. The grief, pain, and trauma of this irreplaceable loss are a constant reminder of the devastating consequences. The grief is compounded by the knowledge that the loss was avoidable and that the police’s actions were unjustified and excessive.

Amnesty International interviewed medical doctors to seek their interpretation of the feelings expressed by of relatives of the victims of #EndBadGovernance protest killings. The trauma extends beyond the individual, affecting entire community and families. The loss of a loved ones can have a ripple effect, causing emotional, psychological, and economic devastation

“It has caused them trauma distress, anxiety, and PTSD and negative effects on mental health and well-being”

nors-facing-trial/

37 Vanguard, “Court strikes out treason charge against minors after FG’s withdrawal”, 5 November 2024, <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2024/11/court-strikes-out-treason-charge-against-minors-after-fgs-withdrawal/>

38 Premium Times, “How police killed, injured protesters during #EndBadGovernance protests in Niger state” 18 August 2024, <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/725330-how-police-killed-injured-protesters-during-endbadgovernance-protests-in-niger-state.html>

39 Amnesty International interview with the father of Salahuddin Umar at Darerawa Street, Rijiyar Lemu, Kano state.

8. CONCLUSION

Amnesty International has found that Nigerian authorities killed at least 24 protesters and arrested 1,200 hundreds of protesters during the nationwide #EndBadGovernance protests between 1–10 August. The Nigerian authorities perpetrated acts of torture and other ill-treatment against protesters. The organization also found that several #EndBadGovernance protesters have been arraigned nationwide and put through trials based on bogus charges, in a clear manifestation of the government's unrelenting efforts to punish protesters and demonize protests.

The brutal crackdown on the #Endbadgovernance protesters is a clear manifestation of the failure of the Nigerian authorities to respect and facilitate the right to freedom of expression.

Amnesty International calls on the Nigerian authorities to reverse this cycle of human rights violations, impunity, and crackdown on peaceful protests by investigating thoroughly, independently, impartially, transparently and effectively all allegations of human rights violations and abuses made in the context of the #EndBadGovernance protests. The authorities must identify those suspected to be responsible and bring them to justice in fair trial.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 TO THE NIGERIAN AUTHORITIES

- Thoroughly, independently, impartially, transparently and effectively investigate all allegations of human rights violations and abuses made in the context of the #Endbadgovernance protests. Identify all those suspected to be responsible and bring them to justice in fair trial.
- Release immediately and unconditionally all people detained solely for peacefully exercising their human rights, including the right to freedom of peaceful assembly, and expression, during the hunger protests.
- Guarantee detainees' access to lawyers of their choice, families, and to the independent medical care they may require.
- Guarantee that all #Endbadgovernance protest detainees are tried following procedures that meet international standards on fair trials, such as the right to challenge the legality of detention and the right to an adequate defense, which in turn includes the right to access a lawyer at all stages of the judicial proceedings, the right to adequate time and facilities to prepare their defense, and the right to cross-examine witnesses.
- Guarantee that people can exercise their rights to the freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, without fear of being killed, ill-treated, or arbitrarily detained.
- Guarantee the protection of human rights defenders, journalists, and the media, and ensure that they can freely carry out their work without fear of reprisals.
- Publicly apologise to all protesters who were killed, injured, or traumatized by the security agents.
- Develop more robust engagement between the youths and the government.
- Immediately and unconditionally release all those arrested from 1-10 August for exercising their right to peaceful assembly.
- Respect, protect, and fulfil the right of everyone to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly and end the use of excessive force against protesters.
- Drop all charges brought against protesters solely for the peaceful exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, and unconditionally release those facing such charges.

9.2 TO THE NIGERIAN POLICE FORCE

- Provide specific training for law enforcement officials on crowd facilitation during protests.
- Provide training to security agencies on the legal framework that governs the policing of protests and be adequately trained in techniques of crowd facilitation and management.
- Provide training to security agencies on international human rights standards to make them aware of the circumstances in which restrictions on assembly may be imposed, and clearly understand the limits of their authority, notably with regard to the use of force. Training should include real-life scenarios, including instructions on the use of force and 'less-lethal' weapons in the context of protests, to ensure that, when the use of force is necessary, it is also proportionate to the circumstances.

- Implement effective mechanisms to prohibit the use of lethal force in the context of public demonstrations.
- Implement an ammunition registration and control system.
- Implement a communications records system to monitor operational orders and identify who issued them and who carried them out.
- Promote visible markings that personally identify police personnel who participate in public law enforcement operations.
- Promote opportunities for communication and dialogue with the organizers of demonstrations before they occur; appoint liaison officers to coordinate during protest activities and law enforcement operations to prevent conflict situations from arising.
- Appoint police officials responsible for law enforcement operations during protests, particularly during scheduled protests, and instruct such officials to supervise field operations and ensure strict compliance with international standards on the use of force and police conduct.
- Establish administrative sanctions for law enforcement personnel who commit abuses or acts of violence; involve independent investigators and victims.

9.3 TO THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

- Exercise authority to investigate all allegations of human rights violations, including allegations contained in this report.
- Ensure an effective and independent complaints system for extrajudicial executions by the police and other security forces, death in custody, enforced disappearances and torture; and ensure that all such suspected cases are duly investigated.

9.4 TO THE UNITED NATIONS

- Publicly condemn crimes and human rights violations committed against peaceful protesters by the Nigeria police and other security forces and call on the government of Nigeria to urgently initiate thorough, independent, impartial, transparent and effective investigations into allegations of human rights violations committed during the #EndBadGovernance protests, and to prosecute those suspected to be responsible in fair trials and ensure access to justice and effective remedies for victims.

9.5 TO THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS

- Begin to monitor and condemn human rights violations committed by the Nigeria police and other security forces during the #EndBadGovernance protests and call on the government of Nigeria to promptly, thoroughly, independently, impartially, transparently and effectively investigate allegations of human rights violations committed during the #EndBadGovernance protests in Nigeria, and to prosecute those suspected to be responsible in fair trials and ensure access to justice and effective remedies for victims.
- Urgently initiate thorough, independent, impartial investigations into allegations of human rights violations and crimes committed during the #EndBadGovernance protests in Nigeria, and to prosecute those responsible in fair trials.

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MATTERS TO US ALL.**

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BLOODY AUGUST

NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT'S VIOLENT CRACKDOWN ON #ENDBADGOVERNANCE PROTESTS

The briefing documents attacks on the right to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression during the #EndBadGovernance protests in many parts of Nigeria, between 1–10 August 2024. Nigeria has a long-standing culture of violent attacks on peaceful protests by security agencies, but with the #EndBadGovernance protests, the harassment and intimidation started ahead of, during and after the protests. Amnesty International seeks to ensure that demands for accountability are heard and acted upon, impunity to be effectively addressed, and victims will enjoy access to justice and effective remedies.

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