

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Nigeria, the most populous country in Africa, has faced a history of human rights violations that have drawn both national and international concern. These violations are often linked to the actions of state security forces, political corruption, and institutional failures to protect the rights of ordinary citizens. One of the most significant events in recent Nigerian history that has highlighted these human rights abuses is the Lekki Protest and Lekki Massacre of October 2020, where Nigerian security forces opened fire on peaceful protesters in Lagos, leading to significant loss of life and raising serious questions about the state's commitment to the protection of human rights (Hassan 2020).

The Lekki Toll Gate incident occurred during a peaceful demonstration by the #EndSARS movement, which had gained traction due to widespread discontent with police brutality, particularly by the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS). Protesters gathered to demand an end to police violence, judicial reforms, and improved governance. The Lekki Massacre, as it came to be known, transpired on the evening of October 20, 2020, when Nigerian soldiers, under the orders of the government, fired live ammunition into a crowd of unarmed protesters, resulting in several deaths and injuries (Okonjo-Iweala 2021).

This thesis aims to examine the human rights violations that took place during the Lekki Protest/Massacre, analyzing the broader implications for human rights in Nigeria. It will explore the role of the Nigerian government, law enforcement agencies, and military forces in perpetuating these violations and the subsequent impact on the Nigerian populace. By focusing on the Lekki incident, this

study will also seek to understand how the event reflects broader patterns of governance and human rights abuses in the country.

In understanding the legal and societal contexts of the Lekki Massacre, it is essential to review relevant international human rights laws, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), which Nigeria is a signatory to. The country's obligations under these frameworks, and its failure to uphold them, will be critically examined. Additionally, the role of civil society, the media, and international human rights organizations in responding to the massacre will be explored to understand the international community's response to the crisis.

The Lekki Massacre has become a symbol of the ongoing struggle for justice in Nigeria, sparking significant public outcry both within the country and globally. It also raised important questions about the militarization of civilian spaces, police brutality, and the fight for human rights in a country with a long history of authoritarian rule and impunity.

The quest for human rights in Nigeria remains a pressing issue, deeply intertwined with the nation's historical and contemporary struggles against governance failures, corruption, and systemic violence. Despite being one of Africa's largest democracies, Nigeria has grappled with pervasive human rights violations, particularly by state actors. Reports from organizations such as Amnesty International (2020) highlight the widespread abuse of power by law enforcement agencies, especially the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), which has been implicated in numerous cases of extrajudicial killings, torture, and harassment.

The #EndSARS movement, which gained momentum in October 2020, emerged as a grassroots response to these abuses. Mobilized primarily by young Nigerians through social media, the

movement sought to dismantle SARS and call attention to the broader issues of police brutality and governance (Hassan, 2020). The protests spread across major cities, capturing national and international attention, and culminating in a tragic escalation at the Lekki Toll Gate in Lagos on October 20, 2020. On that fateful night, armed security forces opened fire on peaceful protesters, resulting in numerous deaths and injuries, an event that has since been referred to as the Lekki massacre (Nwankwo, 2021).

This thesis aims to explore the human rights violations that occurred during the Lekki protests, examining their implications for Nigerian society, governance, and international relations. By analyzing firsthand accounts, media reports, and findings from human rights organizations, this study seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of the state's violent response to civic dissent and the resulting erosion of public trust.

The implications of the Lekki massacre extend beyond immediate casualties; they challenge the legitimacy of the Nigerian state and highlight the urgent need for accountability and reform within its security apparatus. As the international community grapples with issues of human rights and governance in Nigeria, this case study serves as a critical reminder of the ongoing struggles faced by citizens in their fight for justice and democratic rights (Human Rights Watch, 2020). Ultimately, this research aims to contribute to the discourse on human rights in Nigeria, advocating for systemic change and reinforcing the importance of civil society in holding governments accountable.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Human rights abuses has contributed immensely to bad governance in Nigeria. Human rights violations have long been a significant issue in Nigeria, with widespread incidents ranging from extrajudicial killings, torture, and arbitrary arrests, to restrictions on freedom of speech and assembly.

These violations not only undermine the fundamental rights of Nigerian citizens but also pose a serious threat to the country's democratic processes and governance structures. In recent years, one of the most alarming instances of human rights violations in Nigeria was the Lekki protest and massacre of October 2020, where peaceful protesters advocating for the reform of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) were met with violence by security forces. This incident not only led to the loss of lives but also sparked national and international outrage, revealing the fragile state of human rights protection and governance in Nigeria.

The Lekki massacre, in particular, has drawn significant attention to the intersection of human rights abuses and the erosion of good governance. While the incident highlighted the failure of Nigerian security forces to protect citizens' rights, it also exposed deep-rooted issues within Nigeria's political, legal, and governance structures, such as corruption, impunity, lack of accountability, and ineffective institutions. The government's failure to transparently address the massacre has further deepened public mistrust in political leadership and raised concerns about the capacity of Nigerian institutions to uphold the rule of law and protect human rights.

This thesis aims to investigate the implications of human rights violations on good governance in Nigeria, using the Lekki protest and massacre as a case study. By exploring the broader political, legal, and social implications of such violations, this study seeks to understand how the failure to protect human rights has contributed to the erosion of democratic principles and governance in Nigeria. It also aims to highlight the role of security forces, government accountability, media, and civil society in shaping the trajectory of human rights protection and governance reform. Ultimately, this research will provide a critical analysis of the relationship between human rights violations and the sustainability of good governance in Nigeria, contributing to discussions on how to strengthen legal frameworks, promote transparency, and restore public trust in government institutions.

The study will thus address the pressing need for systemic reforms in Nigeria's governance structures to ensure that human rights are safeguarded, public trust is restored, and good governance is achieved.

1.3 Aims and Objectives

The aim of this study is to critically examine the impact of human rights violations on good governance in Nigeria, with a specific focus on the Lekki protest and massacre as a case study. The research seeks to explore the relationship between human rights abuses and the deterioration of democratic governance, accountability, and rule of law in Nigeria.

The specific objectives are to;

1. To investigate the relationship between human rights violations and the effectiveness of governance in Nigeria.
2. To examine the involvement of Nigerian police and other security forces in human rights violations, such as extrajudicial killings, torture, and unlawful detention.
3. To analyze how the Lekki protest and massacre affected Nigeria's standing in the international community concerning human rights and governance.
4. To evaluate the role of civil society organizations (CSOs) and international human rights bodies in exposing and addressing human rights violations in Nigeria.
5. To assess the effectiveness of Nigeria's existing legal and institutional frameworks for human rights protection.
6. To explore the role of public awareness campaigns and how media exposure influences the pursuit of justice for victims of human rights violations and promotes transparency and good governance.
7. To explore how human rights violations in Nigeria exacerbate corruption, and what impact this have on the overall governance system?

1.4 Research Questions

The following research questions will guide the study.

1. Does a violation of human rights impede on good governance?
2. What are the roles of the police, or any other armed security forces affect good governance?
3. How did the Lekki protest and massacre impact Nigeria's international reputation with regard to human rights and good governance.
4. What role do civil society organizations and international human rights bodies play in addressing human rights violations in Nigeria, and how do their actions impact governance?
5. To what extent has Nigeria's legal and institutional framework for protecting human rights been effective, and how can it be improved to support good governance?
6. How does public awareness and the media's role in exposing human rights violations influence governance and the pursuit of justice in Nigeria?
7. How do human rights violations in Nigeria exacerbate corruption, and what impact does this have on the overall governance system?

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study is significant in several key areas, particularly in contributing to the broader discourse on human rights, governance, and democracy in Nigeria. By focusing on the Lekki protest and massacre, a pivotal event in recent Nigerian history, this research aims to highlight the deep and far-reaching consequences of human rights violations on good governance, with implications that extend beyond the immediate aftermath of the incident.

1. **Filling a Critical Gap in Existing Literature:** The Lekki massacre has drawn significant attention, but research on its direct and long-term effects on governance, human rights, and

political stability in Nigeria remains limited. This study will provide empirical evidence and critical analysis of the implications of human rights violations in Nigeria, specifically in how they influence governance structures, public trust, and the rule of law. It will fill the gap in literature regarding the intersection of state-sponsored violence, governance failure, and public perception in a rapidly developing democracy.

2. **Understanding the Erosion of Public Trust:** The study will explore how the Lekki massacre, and similar incidents of human rights violations, undermine citizens' trust in government institutions and the rule of law. Understanding this dynamic is crucial for addressing the public's growing skepticism toward governance in Nigeria, particularly in terms of political participation, electoral processes, and civic engagement. The findings will provide insights on how to restore trust and re-establish a legitimate government that is accountable to its people.
3. **Policy and Institutional Reform:** By examining the role of security forces, the legal framework, and government institutions in the context of human rights violations, the study will inform potential reforms needed to address systemic issues in Nigerian governance. These findings will be significant for policymakers, human rights advocates, and civil society organizations in formulating more effective policies to ensure accountability, prevent human rights abuses, and foster good governance in Nigeria.
4. **Influencing International Relations and Reputation:** The Lekki massacre garnered international attention, highlighting the global implications of human rights violations in Nigeria. This study will contribute to understanding how Nigeria's international reputation has been affected and the extent to which human rights violations influence diplomatic relations, foreign investments, and Nigeria's position in global human rights forums. By emphasizing the impact on Nigeria's image, this research could influence the international community's engagement with Nigeria, encouraging global pressure for reforms.

5. **Promoting Human Rights and Democracy:** Ultimately, the study is significant in its potential to advocate for a stronger commitment to human rights and democracy in Nigeria. By linking the violation of fundamental human rights to poor governance outcomes, the research emphasizes the importance of upholding human rights as essential to the development of democratic processes and the rule of law. This study will contribute to ongoing efforts by civil society, international human rights bodies, and the Nigerian public to advocate for justice, transparency, and accountability.
6. **Enhancing Public Awareness and Media Influence:** The study will also highlight the critical role that the media and public awareness campaigns play in shaping governance outcomes. By exploring the media's role in exposing human rights violations and influencing public opinion, the research will provide important insights into how increased transparency and media advocacy can drive positive change and hold authorities accountable, ultimately fostering a culture of good governance.

1.6 Scope and Delimitation of the Study

This study focuses on examining the relationship between human rights violations and good governance in Nigeria, with particular emphasis on the Lekki protest and Massacre that took place on October 20, 2020, at the Lekki Toll Gate in Lagos, Nigeria, as a case study. During the broader #EndSARS movement, which aimed to protest police brutality and systemic violence within Nigeria's security agencies. The research will concentrate specifically on the human rights violations that occurred during this event, as well as the responses by various stakeholders, including the Nigerian government, security forces, civil society, and international bodies.

While the research is delimited to the specific context of this event, the findings are intended to contribute to a broader understanding of how human rights violations can undermine the governance

process, public trust, and international relations, offering insights for reforms in both policy and practice.

1.7 Operational Definition of Terms: Some key terms are operationally defined in this study:

1. Human Rights Violations: Human rights violations refer to actions or omissions by state or non-state actors that breach internationally recognized human rights standards. These include violations of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights.

2. Massacre: The term "massacre" is used in this study to describe the disproportionate and unlawful use of force resulting in multiple deaths and injuries among protesters demanding an end to police brutality.

3. #EndSARS Movement: The #EndSARS movement refers to a nationwide protest that began in October 2020, aimed at ending the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), a police unit notorious for widespread human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings, torture, and harassment. The movement gained international attention, with demands extending beyond the disbandment of SARS to wider police reform and justice for victims of police brutality.

4. Right to Peaceful Assembly: The right to peaceful assembly is a fundamental human right protected under international human rights law (e.g., the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights).

5. Excessive Use of Force: Excessive use of force refers to the application of force by security agencies that is disproportionate, unnecessary, or unlawful in relation to the threat posed by individuals or groups.

6. **Extrajudicial Killings:** Extrajudicial killings refer to deaths caused by government authorities (typically the police or military) outside of the legal framework, without due process of law or a trial.
7. **Police Brutality:** Police brutality refers to the unlawful or excessive use of force by police officers against civilians, particularly those engaged in protests or dissent.
8. **Accountability:** Accountability, in the context of this study, refers to the responsibility of the Nigerian government and security forces to answer for their actions regarding the Lekki Massacre.
9. **International Human Rights Law:** International human rights law refers to legal norms and standards established by international agreements that protect individuals' rights and freedoms. These include treaties such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
10. **Protestor/Protest Movement:** A protestor in this study refers to any individual or group who participated in a protest or the specific demonstration . The protest movement represents a collective action organized by these individuals, often through social media platforms, to demand reforms such as an end to police brutality, accountability for abuses, and improved governance.
11. **Social Media Activism:** Social media activism refers to the use of social media platforms (such as Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook) by individuals or groups to mobilize, organize, and raise awareness about social or political causes.
12. **Reforms:** Reforms refer to the changes in laws, policies, or practices aimed at addressing human rights violations and improving the protection of civil rights.
13. **Good Governance:** This involves the act of exercising authority over the affairs of others or a country with justice and fairness.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

The issue of human rights violations in Nigeria has been extensively documented, particularly concerning police brutality and the state's response to civil protests. This literature review synthesizes key studies and reports that provide context to the #EndSARS movement and the Lekki protests, highlighting the implications of these events for human rights and governance in Nigeria.

Nigeria's human rights landscape has been shaped by decades of political instability, military rule, and pervasive corruption. According to Human Rights Watch (2019), the Nigerian police have a long history of abuses, particularly through units like the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), which has been implicated in numerous cases of extrajudicial killings and torture. This environment of impunity has fostered public discontent, particularly among the youth, who have increasingly utilized social media as a platform for activism (Okwori, 2020).

2.1 Human Rights Violations in Nigeria: An Overview

Human rights violations in Nigeria have been a longstanding issue, fueled by political instability, corruption, and systemic injustice. According to Ojukwu (2019), Nigeria has faced recurring patterns of human rights abuses, particularly related to state-sanctioned violence and extrajudicial killings. Political repression, coupled with corruption, has fostered an environment where human rights are routinely violated, especially against marginalized groups.

The Nigerian government's approach to human rights has been widely criticized for undermining the rule of law, with state actors often using force to suppress dissent. In the context of military regimes and even under democratic governments, there have been numerous documented cases of human

rights violations. As Akinwumi (2018) notes, the Nigerian security forces have often been implicated in unlawful killings, torture, and arbitrary arrests, undermining efforts toward human rights reforms.

Nigeria is among the countries where human right abuses are recorded daily and virtually in all human endeavours. Below are some of the routinely abused human rights in Nigeria.

A. Unlawful Violation of Civil, Political and Moral Rights (First Generation Rights)

Nigerian citizens had their political rights violated through intimidation, undemocratic imposition of candidates for political offices, assassination and the huge finances on prebendal political environment (Akhaine and Chizea, 2011). Specifically, the violations of civil, political and moral rights include;

i. Abuse of Right to Life

This human right violation is mostly found in torture and extra-judicial killings by government security operatives. For instance, Ero (2009) reported that over 20,000 civilians were massacred with other 50,000 displaced from their homes as a result of the brutal handling of the Niger – Delta crises by the Joint Military Task Force (JTF). Earlier, the death of about 50 persons on 25th February, 2008 was caused by the Nigerian police in Ogaminana outskirts of Okene in Kogi State.

Akhaine and Chizea (2011) reported that 17 people were shot dead by security forces during a protest in Kaduna state on 17th April and another 118 killed on 27th April in the same state with several houses burnt. Abbah (2013) and Adetayo (2013) further observed that over 300 people were killed in the Fulani/Farmers clashes that lasted for 5 months in Nigeria.

Reuters (2012) noted the brutal killing of more than 700 lives in Bauchi, Maiduguri and Damaturu as a result of the Boko Haram rootless attack on the civilians. Furthermore, in a latest report on Boko Haram activities, Osun Defender (2014) submitted that civilians in Nigeria are paying heavy prices as

„cycle of human rights violations and reprisals gather momentum“ because according to the 2014 Amnesty International report, “more than 1,500 deaths in three months indicate an alarming deteriorations...in the face of extra-judicial executions, attacks on civilians and other crimes committed on a mass scale” (p.1). Even though, the Amnesty report observed the rising number of Boko Haram attacks as “truly shocking” but it also noted the reaction of Nigerian security forces as “brutal” with both serving as acts that may constitute “war crimes and crimes against humanity” calling for immediate investigation and prosecutions (Amnesty, 2014).

ii. Abuse of Right to Freedom of Movement

This human right violation is found in kidnapping and disappearance which has been on the increase in Nigeria. The situation is worst in Abia State due to cases of all forms of kidnapping: including kidnapping of children, women and other civilians (Kaluge, 2013). While Oyewale (2010) acknowledged the daily occurrence of domestic terrorism (brutal kidnapping) in the Niger-Delta between 2006 and 2009, Azania (2013) equally reported how Edo varsity lecturers lamented daily affairs kidnapping of their colleagues. This worrisome physical human right abuse is even preponderant all over Nigeria today.

iii. Abuse of Right to Freedom of Religion

Contrary to the provision of secularity in Nigeria’s constitution, Adeniji (2008) and Oyeweso (2013) reported frequent human right abuses among cleric fundamentalists. According to Adeniji (2008), over 1,000 reported cases of clashes between the Christian and the Muslim adherents were recorded in Nigeria between 2001 and 2008. Musa and Adeniji (2010) equally acknowledged the destruction to lives and properties by frequent clashes in Abeokuta South Local Government in Ogun State between 1980 and 2007.

iv. Abuse of Right to Freedom of Assembly

The Nigerian government is known to oppose anti – government protest and demonstration. For instance, on 3rd January 2009, police in Okeagbe, Ondo State allegedly killed and wounded some youths who demonstrated against local police extortion. Equally, political killings were reported by Ariyibi (2013) in Ekiti following clashes between rival political parties while Kayode-Ayodeji (2013) reported that rioters stripped a ruler naked after severe beating by angry mobs in Ogun State. Indeed, Akhaine and Chizea (2011) reported that some politicians in Nigeria maintain a retinue of thugs that often perpetuate acts of violence against their opponents.

On February 18, 2012, Sahara news reported that activists condemned the police disruption of political memorial procession for the last year’s martyrs on fuel price increase. Indeed, Aremu (2012) reported that over 20 tear – gas canisters were used to disperse the protesters and several leaders of the protesters were whisked away and detained for several hours in Alausa police station. Even, in the recently held and inconclusive Anambra state governorship election, the Daily Trust and This Day Newspapers of 20th and 21st November, 2013 respectively reported the continued detention of 182 election observers by the Nigerian police (Adebayo, 2013; Ezigbo, 2013). It is regrettable to note that the Nigerian government has continually failed to address this kind of human right abuses and punish the offenders.

B. Unlawful Violation of the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Second Generation Rights)

The citizens’ entitlements violated under this kind of human right abuses are:

i). Abuse of Right to Education

Although education is an instrument per excellence for effecting national development, it is regrettable to note that corruption, bribery and nepotism are ill vices in the Nigerian educational system. Equally,

some state-owned universities do not give equal admission opportunities to all Nigerians while the university council considered some states in Nigeria as education less privileged. Indeed, Nigerian citizens are supposed to have free education as contained in the Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy, but in practice, some states and federal schools where this has been implemented students still pay fees.

As a fall – out of denial to right to education, Olubodun (2008) noted that 41 percent of the Nigerian children totaling 7.5 million were out of school in 1997 and by 2005 (as reported by (Oladosu, 2008)), the figure had risen to 19.8 million children. Although, it appears the figure had dropped to about 8 million in 2011 (according to the Former Minister of Education, Prof. Ruqqayat Rufai) but the situation is that a sizeable number of eligible Nigerian children are still out of Basic Education amounting to existence of denial of education rights.

ii). Violations of Right to Standard of Living

It is regrettable to note that this violation is been caused by the quantum of corruption in public services. Corruption has generally eaten deep into the fabric of Nigerian society. It is an abuse of the citizens’ rights to have corrupt leaders in the public services. According to Adetoro (2012b), Nigeria as a „cesspool of corruption“ still suffers denial to cheaper availability of fuel products arising from fuel subsidy scandal that led to over-invoicing of imported petroleum products. This happened in a country where over 70 percent of the populace lives below 1 dollar per day (UNDP, 2011). This represents a flagrant violation of peoples’ right to improved standard of living.

C. Unlawful Violation of Solidarity or Community Rights (Third Generation Rights)

i. Abuse of Right to Clean and Healthy Environment

Certain segments of Nigerian society have been deprived of the right to safe, clean and healthy environment. For instance, the conflict in the Niger-Delta region is partly as a result of an abuse of environmental right. It is on this light that the environmental activists like Ken Saro Wiwa along with others were extra-judicially hanged by the government in 1995. Furthermore, Awah (2009) noted how the rights of women were frequently abused in Nigeria under trafficking circumstances. Equally, it was observed that out of about 8 million children destitute in Nigeria, 7 million of them constitute street beggars known as „Almajirai“ in Northern Nigeria (Ahmed, 2007; Obioha, 2009); (Adetoro, 2010). Danladi (2009) further lamented the state of neglect, harm, abuse, exploitation and deprivation that orphans and vulnerable children were subjected to in Nigeria.

ii. Prison/Prisoner's Rights

The Nigerian prison system is nothing but a living hell. Those who came out of it after serving their sentences hardly get reformed; in fact they become hardened recidivists. Among the problems of the Nigerian prison system is the existence of a large population of those awaiting trial. This always leads to congestion in the prison cells as a result of deficit in prison infrastructures (Ndifon, 2013). These conditions are outright acts of violation of the human rights of the inmates. Equally, prisoner's right to court is impeded by failure to provide vehicles to convey them to court and inadequate medical care is impeded by shortage of health facilities.

iii. Abuses of the Right to Self Determination

The struggle for freedom or self-determination has been at the frontline of most agitators from different ethnic nationals in Nigeria. This right to self-determination has been the major agitation by

the Niger – Delta people, the Movement for the Actualization of the sovereign states of Biafra (MASSOB) and so on. The struggle often leads to armed conflict resulting to loss of lives and properties among others. Indeed, the Human Rights Watch (2011) observed that more than 15,700 people had been killed in inter – communal, political and sectarian violence between 1999 and 2011. Today, the casualties figure would have been doubled due to the insurgent activities of Boko Haram.

2.2 Effects Of Human Rights Abuse In Nigeria

Human rights abuse in Nigeria often leads to poverty which is so prevalent due to massive abuse of public fund. This is as a result of high rate of unemployment which has resulted in youth's involvement in crimes such as armed robbery, internet scams and kidnapping for survival. Secondly, human right abuse has obvious hindrance to national development. Thirdly, it also breeds high insecurity rate as a state of anarchy had given room to lack of protection of lives and properties as witnessed under conflicts in the Niger Delta region and the various ethno – religious violence. Equally, the poor health care facilities and diseases are as a result of government non-challant attitude to the well-being of the citizens. Human right abuse has created unlawful detention and lawlessness with gross violation of the rule of law. Furthermore, human right abuse makes people unpatriotic as most Nigerians are not proud of calling Nigeria their fatherland. This is why many citizens of Nigeria seek ways of leaving the country in search of safety and prosperity abroad.

From the foregoing, it is evident that human rights abuse is a menace to any society because of its consequences. To overcome these challenges, the following recommendations are made:

The Nigerian government should take more proactive campaign against corruption and strengthen the country's anti – corruption institutions. This is because corruption serves to promote criminal and extremist activity by creating barriers to legitimate socio – political and economic endeavours. By

attacking corruption, Nigeria will send a clear signal that the country is indeed committed to good governance, to the security of its citizens and to its rightful place as a significant actor on the global stage (McCulley, 2013).

The government has to amend some clauses in the Nigerian constitution like section 215 (5), 260(1), 275 (1) among others (Ezeanya, 2010). For instance, it is unjust for any government that claims to be secular to put loopholes in her constitution that guarantees state to adopt any religious law (like the enforcement of Sharia law on non- Muslims in the North). Also, if our leaders are genuinely sincere, then there is no reason why a President and Governor could not be questioned on abuse of office in the court of law. Hence, it is recommended that the immunity clauses in our constitution should be removed.

Moreover, freedom of the press and freedom of expression are also fundamental human rights, key to functioning democracies. A vibrant free press is critical to illuminating public discussion on issues arising from Nigeria's democracy, including security and corruption. The silencing of journalists, political critics, and others, whether via arrest and detention, threats or other forms of intimidation should be outlawed in Nigeria. Respect for the rule of law is paramount and must start with the government itself. To this end, government should follow the rule of law. It has to ensure that corruption in the judiciary is stopped and checked by another agency. This will make it easier for the citizens to trust the judiciary and seek redress in court whenever their rights are abused (Kaluge, 2013; McCulley, 2013).

With the restoration of democratic governance in all the countries in West African sub-region, there should be more conscious efforts by Nigerian government to ensure respect for, protection and fulfillment of human rights. This is why the National Human Rights Commission need to be repositioned to effectively discharge its mandate (Nnochiri, 2013). Along the same vein, government

should provide Human Right Education to the citizens through media campaigns, lectures, and simulation exercises among others. This will help to educate the citizens on their rights and on how to seek redress when their rights are violated.

However, the Nigerian law enforcement agencies most importantly the Nigerian police needs re-orientation because they need to understand their duties as they have to learn that respecting the rights of the citizens are part of their duties. The military on the other hand should be taught to use less force when called upon to restore law and order. To this end, the government should allow the military to concentrate on defending the state against external aggression than quelling internal unrest. Rather, the police should be beefed-up and well-equipped so that they can combat most internal crimes effectively.

Above all, the citizens should not only help the government to protect their rights but they should also live responsibly to protect the rights of others at all levels of human relationship ranging from the family to the global arena. Hence, citizens should be more patriotic, have respect for the law, assist the law enforcement agencies and co-operate with international organizations on human rights issues.

2.3 The #EndSARS Movement

The #EndSARS movement emerged as a response to widespread frustrations over police brutality and systemic corruption within Nigerian law enforcement. In her analysis, Akinola (2021) explores the role of social media in galvanizing public support and organizing protests, emphasizing how platforms like Twitter became essential for mobilization. The movement quickly gained momentum, drawing attention to the demand for police reform and greater accountability from the government.

2.3.1 The Lekki Toll Gate Incident

The events of October 20, 2020, at the Lekki Toll Gate marked a critical juncture in Nigeria's history of civil dissent. Eyewitness reports and media coverage indicate that peaceful protesters were met with violent repression, resulting in casualties and widespread outrage (Nwankwo, 2021). Amnesty International (2020) condemned the actions of security forces, calling them a blatant violation of human rights. This incident sparked global protests and heightened scrutiny of Nigeria's human rights record.

According to Wikipedia, End SARS is a decentralized social movement, and series of mass protests against police brutality in Nigeria. The slogan calls for the disbanding of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), a notorious unit of the Nigerian Police with a long record of abuses. The protests which takes its name from the slogan started in 2017 as a Twitter campaign using the hash tag #ENDSARS to demand the disbanding of the unit by the Nigerian government. After experiencing revitalization in October 2020 following more revelations of the abuses of the unit, mass demonstrations occurred throughout the major cities of Nigeria, accompanied by vociferous outrage on social media platforms. About 28 million tweets bearing the hash tag have been accumulated on Twitter alone. Solidarity protests and demonstrations by Nigerians in Diaspora and sympathizers occurred in many major cities of the world. The protests are notable for its patronage by a demographic that is made of entirely young Nigerians. The movement has since expanded to include demands for good and accountable governance. SARS officers have been alleged to profile young Nigerians, mostly males, based on fashion choices, tattoos and hairstyles. They were also known to mount illegal road blocks, conduct unwarranted checks and searches, arrest and detain without warrant or trial, rape women, and extort young male Nigerians for driving exotic vehicles and using laptops and i-phones. Nigerians have shared both stories and video evidence of how officers of SARS engaged

in kidnapping, murder, theft, rape, torture, unlawful arrests, humiliation, unlawful detention, extrajudicial killings and extortion of Nigerian citizens. A large section of the victims of the abuses of SARS have been young male Nigerians.

2.4 The Future of Human Rights in Nigeria: Challenges and Opportunities

The Lekki massacre and the subsequent response to the #EndSARS movement have underscored the need for comprehensive human rights reforms in Nigeria. However, as scholars such as Obi (2020) assert, achieving long-term change requires addressing not only police violence but also the broader systemic issues of governance, corruption, and impunity. For instance, efforts to reform the police and military forces, increase transparency in security operations, and strengthen the judicial system are critical in ensuring the protection of human rights.

Additionally, as Nwachukwu (2021) emphasizes, the continued activism of Nigerian youths, supported by both local and international civil society, offers a ray of hope for meaningful change. The momentum from the #EndSARS protests could serve as the foundation for a more democratic and human rights-oriented future, though it will require sustained pressure on the government and political will to implement reforms.

2.5 Governmental Response and Intervention:

The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, President Muhammadu Buhari—a former army general who led a military government in the 1980s—vowed last week to disband SARS. But there was no word on prosecutions, and government officials indicated that the officers would simply be moved to other units, not dismissed. Protesters denounced the changes as window-dressing. On Tuesday, reports of police killing people, followed by the burning of a police station, prompted the governor of Lagos state, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, to declare a 24-hour curfew. He said that people bent

on chaos had hijacked the peaceful protests. Despite the curfew, the demonstrators near the Lekki tollgate did not disperse. Mr. Ahmed, who had been attending protests since Thursday, said people remained seated on the ground, chanting slogans and waving their flags, as at least a dozen trucks arrived with police and military units. There were already ominous signs. Witnesses reported seeing people dismantle streetlights and remove security cameras that would have recorded what was to come next. Many protesters contend that the government has used paid provocateurs to sow violence, as an excuse for a brutal crackdown. The police officer who confirmed the deaths said that he and dozens of others were ordered to head to the Lekki protest at around 7 p.m. They piled into 15 Toyota pickup trucks, he said, joined by at least three Tata trucks full of soldiers. Some demonstrators were armed, and others threw rocks at the uniformed forces, according to the officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the matter. But other witnesses said that without warning or provocation, the security forces began shooting into the air, and then at the civilians trying to flee in terror. “They were trying to circle us, put us in the middle, they were spreading out and they were trying to go around so that we would be in the middle,” said Eti-Inyene Akpan, a 26-year-old photographer who was there. Many people, including Mr. Akpan and Mr. Ahmed, took shelter behind barricades and under parked cars. “There was a lady who excreted because of fear,” Mr. Ahmed said. Video streams on social media showed wounded people lying in the streets, or being carried by others into teeming hospital emergency rooms. The national government has been all but silent on what happened Tuesday night. Mr. Buhari appealed for calm. In a televised statement on Wednesday, the governor, Mr. Sanwo-Olu, sought to distance himself from the security forces deployed on Tuesday, and said he had ordered an investigation into the “rules of engagement” they adopted. “This is with the view to taking this up with the higher command of the Nigerian Army and to seek intervention of Mr. President” he added. The curfew was extended by three days, until Saturday. The bloodshed drew international condemnation, and not only from human rights groups. Joseph R. Biden Jr., the

Democratic presidential candidate and former vice president, and Hillary Clinton, the former secretary of state, and also international entertainment celebrities such as Beyoncé and Justin Bieber, called on the authorities to halt the violent crackdown. Despite the violent response, the protest movement will not go away, demonstrators and analysts said. “The movement is succeeding while others have failed because of the format it adopted, both offline and online,” said Idayat Hassan, director of the Centre for Democracy and Development, a policy research group in Nigeria. “The hash tag has helped them to garner international support but importantly to galvanize the young people.”

2.6 Implications for Governance and Society

The Lekki massacre not only exposed the brutality of the Nigerian state but also highlighted the systemic failures in governance and accountability. As noted by Hassan (2020), the government’s response to the protests further alienated citizens, undermining public trust in state institutions. The aftermath of the protests saw a resurgence of calls for police reform and justice for victims, suggesting a potential shift in civil society's engagement with governance.

Moreover, international reactions to the Lekki massacre have implications for Nigeria's foreign relations. Human Rights Watch (2020) emphasized the necessity for accountability, arguing that international pressure can play a crucial role in promoting human rights reforms in Nigeria. The global response to the Lekki protests illustrates the interconnectedness of local activism and international human rights advocacy, suggesting that sustained pressure from civil society can lead to significant changes in policy.

The literature surrounding the Lekki protests and the broader #EndSARS movement reveals a complex interplay of historical grievances, contemporary activism, and state violence. This body of work highlights the urgent need for comprehensive reforms in Nigeria's security sector and the importance

of civic engagement in holding the government accountable. As the nation grapples with the implications of these events, the lessons learned from the Lekki massacre will be pivotal in shaping the future of human rights advocacy in Nigeria.

2.7 The Role of International Human Rights Organizations

International human rights organizations have played a critical role in documenting and condemning the violations during the Lekki massacre. Amnesty International (2020) provided evidence through satellite images and testimony that corroborated the claims of violence, marking a significant moment in the global response to human rights violations in Nigeria.

Furthermore, scholars such as Adewumi (2020) argue that international pressure, through sanctions or diplomatic measures, can play an important role in holding the Nigerian government accountable. However, others contend that international organizations often fail to implement effective consequences for human rights violators due to the complex political and economic interests tied to Nigeria, a major player in the global oil market (Pate, 2021).

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter outlines the research techniques to be used for this study, with the aim of achieving the research objectives. The research study will discuss the research design, population of the study, as well as the sample and sampling techniques including method of analysis amongst others. It begins with the research design that will be employed for the study and ends with the method of data collection instrument.

3.2 Research Design

Survey research design will be used in this study. The survey research design is an efficient way of collecting information from a large number of respondents and the ability to use statistical techniques to determine statistical significance (Denscombe, 2003).

This research strategy is considered necessary because of its ability to view comprehensively and in detail the major questions raised in the study. We considered this method appropriate as it is useful for the study of non-observable events such as opinions, attitudes preferences or dispositions (Soyombo, 2002; Fubara & Mguni, 1995). This design will be adopted because the study involves the use of a representative sample from the population and the drawing of conclusion based on the analysis of available data.

3.3 Population of the Study

A population is the entire set of relevant units of analysis in which we are interested for the purpose of the study (Oaikhenan & Udegbunam, 2004). Since this study involve people in Edo State, the population of the study is defined as people in Edo State.

3.4 Sample and Sampling Technique

The sample of our study comprise of respondents drawn from Benin metropolis. The study was carried out in Benin City, Edo state, Nigeria. A total of 300 respondents will be drawn randomly from Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria. The respondents will be chosen using the simple random sampling technique. All members in the sample will be drawn randomly at the various places where the respondents approached for participation in the study.

3.5 Method of data collection

Both secondary and primary data will be used for the study. Secondary data will be sourced from various books and journals that are relevant to the research topic. The internet proved to be an indispensable and veritable source of information for this study.

The primary data generated that will be generated from the field survey carried out by the researcher. Specifically, primary data will be obtained from the target respondents through a carefully constructed questionnaire.

The respondents will be approached and the questionnaires will be administered face-to-face, where the respondents will answer the questions immediately.

3.6 Instrument for data collection

The instrument that is used in gathering data will be a carefully crafted fixed-response questionnaire to elicit responses from the sampled students. The questionnaire will contain well-structured questions to obtain the responses and views of the respondents on what possible forms of impact of bullying on the well being of secondary school students In Edo State.

The questionnaire will be divided into two (2) sections. Section A will be designed to obtain socio-demographic information on respondents. Section B will contain fixed-response questions measuring the perception of the respondents on the relevant issues raised in the research hypotheses and objectives of this study. The respondents will be required to agree or disagree with each of the statements by ticking yes or no.

3.6.1 Validity of Instrument

The suitability and the coherence of the questionnaire will be validated by the project supervisor and other learned professionals within the Faculty, in order to make sure that included questions capture the study variables.

3.7 Method of Data Analysis

The responses of the respondents will be analyzed with the view that will lead to the validation of the hypothesis outlined in this study. The data collected will be properly organized and tabulated. The responses will be statistically analysed by the use of simple percentage and this method of statistical analysis involves using percentage calculations to summarize, describe, and interpret categorical data. This method helps in understanding the distribution of responses in a dataset by expressing the frequency of each response option as a percentage of the total number of responses. It provides a clear and straightforward way to present and compare data.

The formula for computation of simple percentage is given below:

$$\% = \frac{PC}{N} \times \frac{100}{1}$$

Where PC = Percentage Compliance

N = Total numbers of respondents

(Ogbeide, Uyi-Ekpen, 2011)

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION OF RESULT AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

This chapter dealt with the analysis of data representation of results and discussions of findings.

Presentation of Results

Table 1: Percentage Distribution of Respondent by Gender

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Male	158	52.7
Female	142	47.3
Total	300	100

The data in table 1 showed that the males were 158(52.7%), while the females constituted 142(47.3%). Thus the male respondents were more than the females.

Table 2: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Occupation

Occupation Category	Frequency	Percent
Government Employee	80	26.7
Private Sector Employee	90	30.0
Business Owner	50	16.7
Unemployed	30	10.0
Retired	25	8.3
Others	25	8.3
Total	300	100

The table presents the percentage distribution of respondents across different occupational categories in a survey of 300 participants. Private Sector Employees (30.0%) represent the largest occupational group, accounting for 90 respondents. This suggests that a significant portion of the surveyed population is engaged in private-sector jobs, which may indicate a strong presence of private businesses. Government Employees (26.7%) make up the second-largest group, with 80 respondents. This indicates a substantial government workforce.

Business Owners (16.7%), with 50 respondents, highlight the presence of an entrepreneurial segment within the population.

Unemployed respondents (10.0%), totaling 30 individuals, indicate that a notable portion of the surveyed group is not currently engaged in formal employment. Retired individuals (8.3%), or 25 respondents, represent those who have exited the workforce, likely due to age or pension eligibility. This suggests a relatively small elderly population within the surveyed group.

Table 3: Percentage Distribution of Religion

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Christian	262	87.3
Islam	24	8
ATR	14	4.7
Total	300	100

The majority of the respondents in Table 3, 262 out of 300 (87.3%), identify as Christians. This suggests that Christianity is the most widely practiced religion among the surveyed population, likely reflecting the broader religious demographics of the region. Only 24 respondents (8.0%) identify as Muslims, making it the second-largest religious group in the survey. 14 respondents (4.7%) practice African Traditional Religion (ATR).

This suggests that indigenous religious beliefs still hold significance for a small portion of the population.

Presentation of Results

Research Question 1: Does a violation of human rights impede on good governance?

Table 1: Mean and Standard deviation on Human Rights Violations & Governance

S/N	Item statements	Mean	Standard Deviation	Decision
1.	Does a violation of human rights impede good governance?	4.43	0.89	Agree
2.	Correlation between human rights violations and governance?	4.33	0.88	Agree
3.	Do human rights violations affect government credibility?	4.86	0.52	Agree

Scale: Mean \geq 2.50 = Agree

Mean $<$ 2.50 = Disagree

The data in table 4 showed that the mean values ranged from 4.33 to 4.86, while standard the deviation value ranged from 0.52 to 0.89. High Mean Values (Above 4.0): Most respondents strongly agree that human rights violations negatively impact governance, the police play a role, and the Lekki protest significantly damaged Nigeria's reputation. The low values of the standard deviation show that their responses do not deviate far from one another.

Research Question 2: What are the roles of the police, or any other armed security forces affect good governance?

Table 2: Showing Mean and Standard deviation on the Role of Police & Security Forces

S/N	Item statement	Mean	Standard Deviation	Decision
4.	Police behavior and human rights protection?	4.43	0.89	Agree
5.	Impact of police brutality on governance?	4.43	0.89	Agree

The data in table 2 showed that the mean values are 4.43 to 3.50. The results underscore the crucial role of police behavior in protecting human rights (Mean: 4.43, SD: 0.89) and emphasize the negative impact of police brutality on governance (Mean: 4.43, SD: 0.89)

Research Question 3: How did the Lekki protest and massacre impact Nigeria’s international reputation with regard to human rights and good governance.

Table 3: Lekki Protest & Nigeria’s International Reputation

S/N	Item statements	Mean	Standard Deviation	Decision
6	Impact of Lekki massacre on Nigeria's international image	4.97	0.16	Agree
7	Influence of Lekki massacre on international perception?	4.97	0.16	Agree

The data in table 3 showed that the mean values of 4.97, while the standard deviation values of 0.16. The results showed that the respondents agreed to the two items. The near-unanimous agreement on the impact of the Lekki massacre on Nigeria's international image (Mean: 4.97, SD: 0.16) and global perception (Mean: 4.97, SD: 0.16) underscores the far-reaching consequences of human rights abuses. Amnesty International (2020) documented the Lekki incident's repercussions on Nigeria's diplomatic relations, confirming that such events not only affect domestic stability but also shape international policy and economic partnerships.

Research Question 4: What role do civil society organizations and international human rights bodies play in addressing human rights violations in Nigeria, and how do their actions impact governance?

Table 4: Showing Mean and Standard deviation on the Role of CSOs & International Human Rights Bodies

S/N	Item statement	Mean	Standard Deviation	Decision
8.	Effectiveness of CSOs in addressing human rights violations?	4.43	0.89	Agree

9.	Influence of international human rights organizations?	4.43	0.89	Agree
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The data in table 2 showed that the mean values are 4.43 respectively. Respondents acknowledge the effectiveness of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in addressing human rights violations (Mean: 4.43, SD: 0.89) and the influence of international human rights organizations (Mean: 4.43, SD: 0.89).

Research Question 5: To what extent has Nigeria’s legal and institutional framework for protecting human rights been effective, and how can it be improved to support good governance?

Table 5: Showing Mean and Standard deviation on Nigeria’s Legal & Institutional Framework

S/N	Item statement	Mean	Standard Deviation	Decision
10.	Effectiveness of Nigeria’s legal framework in protecting human rights?	2.84	1.52	Agree
11.	Are there enough legal safeguards to prevent violations?	2.84	1.52	Agree

There is a clear lack of confidence in Nigeria’s legal framework for human rights protection, as shown by the lowest mean scores (2.84, SD: 1.52). Similarly, respondents believe that current legal safeguards are insufficient to prevent violations (Mean: 2.84, SD: 1.52).

Research Question 6: How does public awareness and the media’s role in exposing human rights violations influence governance and the pursuit of justice in Nigeria?

Table 6: Showing Mean and Standard deviation on Public awareness and the media’s role

S/N	Item statement	Mean	Standard Deviation	Decision
12.	Influence of media in raising awareness on human rights?	4.43	0.89	Agree
13.	Does public awareness improve governance	4.43	0.89	Agree

Research Question 7: How do human rights violations in Nigeria exacerbate corruption, and what impact does this have on the overall governance system?

Table 7: Showing Mean and Standard deviation on Human Rights Violations & Corruption

S/N	Item statement	Mean	Standard Deviation	Decision
14.	Are human rights violations linked to corruption?	4.47	0.86	Agree
15.	Can addressing corruption and human rights violations improve governance.	4.43	0.89	Agree

The results from Table 7 confirms the strong correlation between human rights violations and corruption (Mean: 4.47, SD: 0.86) suggests that these issues are deeply intertwined. Additionally, addressing both corruption and human rights violations is seen as a pathway to improved governance (Mean: 4.43, SD: 0.89).

Discussions of Findings

The findings indicate a strong consensus that human rights violations impede good governance (Mean: 4.43, SD: 0.89). According to Sen (1999), human rights are integral to development and governance, as their violation undermines institutional credibility. The correlation between human rights violations and governance (Mean: 4.33, SD: 0.88) suggests a significant relationship, aligning with Rothstein (2011), who argues that effective governance is contingent upon upholding human rights. Government credibility is also severely affected by human rights violations, as reflected in the highest mean score (4.86, SD: 0.52), supporting the findings of Donnelly (2013) on the necessity of human rights for public trust in governance.

The results underscore the crucial role of police behavior in protecting human rights (Mean: 4.43, SD: 0.89) and emphasize the negative impact of police brutality on governance (Mean: 4.43, SD: 0.89). Scholars such as Bayley (1997) highlight that police misconduct erodes legitimacy and weakens democratic institutions, reinforcing the study's findings that law enforcement agencies must prioritize ethical conduct and accountability.

The near-unanimous agreement on the impact of the Lekki massacre on Nigeria's international image (Mean: 4.97, SD: 0.16) and global perception (Mean: 4.97, SD: 0.16) underscores the far-reaching consequences of human rights abuses. Amnesty International (2020) documented the Lekki incident's repercussions on Nigeria's diplomatic relations, confirming that such events not only affect domestic stability but also shape international policy and economic partnerships.

Respondents acknowledged the effectiveness of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in addressing human rights violations (Mean: 4.43, SD: 0.89) and the influence of international human rights organizations (Mean: 4.43, SD: 0.89). Keck & Sikkink (1998) emphasize that transnational advocacy networks play a pivotal role in ensuring state accountability, a conclusion that aligns with these results.

There is a clear lack of confidence in Nigeria's legal framework for human rights protection, as shown by the lowest mean scores (2.84, SD: 1.52). Similarly, respondents believe that current legal safeguards are insufficient to prevent violations (Mean: 2.84, SD: 1.52). Scholars such as Okafor (2006) have critiqued Nigeria's weak enforcement mechanisms, stressing the need for constitutional and judicial reforms to bolster human rights protections.

Most respondents strongly agree that human rights violations negatively impact governance, the police play a role, and the Lekki protest significantly damaged Nigeria's reputation. Low Mean Values (Around 2.8): Respondents are skeptical about Nigeria's legal and institutional framework for human rights protection. High consensus on the Lekki massacre's impact on international perception. High Standard Deviations (~1.52): Mixed opinions on the effectiveness of Nigeria's legal framework.

The results confirm that media plays a crucial role in raising awareness on human rights (Mean: 4.43, SD: 0.89) and that public awareness contributes to better governance (Mean: 4.43, SD: 0.89). Norris (2000) highlights that media exposure fosters political accountability, reinforcing the notion that an informed public is essential for democratic governance.

The strong correlation between human rights violations and corruption (Mean: 4.47, SD: 0.86) suggests that these issues are deeply intertwined. Additionally, addressing both corruption and human rights violations is seen as a pathway to improved governance (Mean: 4.43, SD: 0.89). Rose-Ackerman (1999) argues that corruption weakens human rights protections by enabling impunity, which aligns with the study's findings that tackling corruption is fundamental to strengthening governance and human rights.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 SUMMARY

This study has examined the implications of human rights violations on good governance in Nigeria, with a specific focus on the Lekki Protest/Massacre. The findings suggest that human rights violations significantly undermine governance, public trust, and international reputation. The role of law enforcement agencies, civil society organizations, legal frameworks, media, and corruption were also analyzed, highlighting systemic challenges that need urgent reforms.

The study highlights a strong consensus that human rights violations significantly hinder good governance, aligning with scholars such as Sen (1999) and Rothstein (2011). The findings indicate that government credibility is severely affected by such violations. Police behavior, particularly misconduct and brutality, is shown to negatively impact governance, reinforcing the need for ethical law enforcement.

The study also emphasizes the far-reaching consequences of the Lekki massacre on Nigeria's international image, confirming Amnesty International's (2020) findings on its diplomatic repercussions. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and international human rights groups are perceived as effective in addressing violations. However, confidence in Nigeria's legal framework for human rights protection is low, with respondents skeptical about its effectiveness. The media's role in raising awareness is highlighted. The study also establishes a strong correlation between human rights violations and corruption, echoing Rose-Ackerman's (1999) argument that corruption enables impunity. Addressing both issues is seen as crucial for improving governance. Ultimately, the research underscores the interdependence of human rights, governance, and institutional credibility, advocating for reforms to enhance accountability and democratic stability.

A sample size of 300 respondents was selected using the Simple Random sampling technique. Data was collected using structured questionnaires. The data was analyzed using simple percentage. The data was presented using tables.

5.2 CONCLUSION

The study's findings highlight the detrimental effects of human rights violations on governance, police accountability, legal frameworks, and international reputation. While CSOs, international bodies, and media play vital roles in advocating for human rights, systemic legal reforms and anti-corruption efforts are necessary to achieve sustainable governance improvements. Addressing these challenges is essential for restoring public trust and enhancing Nigeria's global standing. The study concludes that persistent human rights violations, particularly by security forces, erode governance credibility and international standing. The Lekki Protest/Massacre exemplifies how state actions can lead to widespread condemnation, affecting diplomatic relations and economic interests. The study also finds that Nigeria's legal and institutional frameworks are inadequate in preventing such violations, necessitating urgent reforms to uphold justice and human rights.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the conclusion drawn from the findings, the following recommendations were put forth;

1. **Strengthening Legal Frameworks:** Nigeria must enhance its legal mechanisms to ensure accountability for human rights violations, aligning with international human rights treaties (Donnelly, 2013).

2. Police and Security Sector Reforms: Comprehensive training and oversight mechanisms should be implemented to prevent police brutality (Bayley, 1997).
3. Civil Society Engagement: The government should collaborate with CSOs to enhance human rights monitoring and advocacy (Keck & Sikkink, 1998).
4. Media Freedom and Public Awareness: Strengthening media independence and public education on human rights will foster accountability and transparency (Norris, 2000).
5. Combating Corruption: Addressing corruption within governance structures will directly contribute to reducing human rights abuses and promoting democratic stability (Rose-Ackerman, 1999).

By implementing these recommendations, Nigeria can work toward a governance structure that prioritizes human rights, justice, and sustainable democratic principles.

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QUESTIONNAIRE

Department of Public Administration,
Faculty of Social Sciences,
University of Benin,
Benin City,
Edo State.
January, 2025.

Dear Respondents,

My name is Okwuashi Daniel Onyelukachukwu, I am currently pursuing my Undergraduate studies in the Department of Public Administration at University of Benin. As part of my academic endeavors, I am conducting a research on “Human Rights Violations and its implication on good governance in Nigeria: A Case Study of the Lekki Protest/Massacre”. The researcher therefore requires your cooperation in giving appropriate answers to the questions below and all information given will be treated as confidential.

SECTION A - BIO DATA

Please tick the option that is applicable to you.

1. Gender: Male () Female ()
2. Occupation: Government employee () Private sector employee () Business owner () Unemployed () Retired () Other (please specify) _____
3. Religion: Christianity () Islam () ATR ()

SECTION B

Mark (√) in the column which represents your opinion.

KEYS:

SA – STRONGLY AGREE

A – AGREE

UN – UNDECIDED

D – DISAGREE

SD- STRONGLY DISAGREE

Please tick the space that best fit your view

S/N	ITEM	SA	A	UN	D	SD
RQ1	Does violation of human rights impede on good governance?					
1	In your opinion, does a violation of human rights impede the functioning of good governance in Nigeria?					
2	Have you observed any correlation between human rights violations and the effectiveness of governance in Nigeria?					
3	Does human rights violations affect the credibility of government institutions?					
RQ2	What are the roles of the police, or any other armed security forces, in affecting good governance?					
1	How would you rate the behavior of the police and armed security forces regarding the protection of human rights in Nigeria?					
2	To what extent does police brutality or misconduct impact governance in Nigeria?					
RQ3	How did the Lekki protest and massacre impact Nigeria's international reputation with regard to human rights and good governance?					
1	Has the Lekki massacre impacted on Nigeria's international image regarding human rights negatively?					
2	Do you think the Lekki massacre influenced international governments' perception of Nigeria's governance?					
RQ4	What role do civil society organizations (CSOs) and international human rights bodies play in addressing human rights violations in Nigeria, and how do their actions impact governance?					
1	Are civil society organizations effective in addressing human rights violations in Nigeria?					
2.	In your opinion, does international human rights organizations influence Nigeria's governance in addressing human rights violations?					
RQ5	To what extent has Nigeria's legal and institutional framework for protecting human rights been effective, and how can it be improved to support good governance?					
1	In your opinion, is Nigeria's legal and institutional framework effective in protecting human rights?					
2	Do you believe there are enough legal safeguards in place to prevent human rights violations in Nigeria?					
RQ6	How does public awareness and the media's role in exposing human rights violations influence governance and the pursuit of justice in Nigeria?					
1	In your opinion is the media influential in raising awareness about human rights violations in Nigeria?					
2	Do you believe that increased public awareness of human rights violations leads to better governance in Nigeria?					
RQ7	How do human rights violations in Nigeria exacerbate corruption, and what impact does this have on the overall governance system?					
1	Do you think human rights violations are linked to corruption in Nigeria?					
2	Can Nigeria address both corruption and human rights violations to improve governance?					