

**VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENDSARS PROTEST IN
NIGERIA. A CASE STUDY OF DELTA STATE.**

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BENIN CITY.**

SEPTEMBER , 2023

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**A PROJECT WORK SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, IN
PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
AWARD OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCES (B.SC.) DEGREE IN PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION, UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY.**

SEPTEMBER, 2023

CERTIFICATION

We certify that this research project was done by Anita Ogbeiwi for the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of Bachelor of Science Degree in the Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Benin, Benin City.

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DEDICATION

This Research work is dedicated to my parents Mr & Mrs Ogbeiwi through whom God saw me through this great University financially.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to extend my thanks and cordial sense of gratitude to my project supervisor, Mr. B.O. Oshoma for his continuous guidance, fatherly disposition and whose immense contributions and corrections made this work a success. I also appreciate my wonderful head of department, professor Stan O. Aibieyi and the lecturers in the department of public administration.

My profound gratitude also goes to my caring and loving parents Mr. and Mrs. Ogbeiwi and my siblings; Ogbeiwi Ruth, Ogbeiwi Faith and Ogbeiwi Victory who showed concern, love and care in my academic endeavor.

With deepest sense of gratitude, I wish to give honour to the following persons who have also contributed immensely to this great achievement: Ezekiel Ehimwenma Giegbefumwen, Mr Vincent uzon, Mrs Margaret uzon, Happiness uzon, Mrs Evelyn omonokhua, Dr Emma Atuke and Joel Ofuebo.

An unreserved appreciation to my friends: Oluwole Precious, Olaje Joy and Okhimamhe Precious who made my stay in University of Benin enjoyable and gave necessary information as at when due.

Finally, and most importantly I am highly indebted to Almighty God whose kindness, care and love sustained me through my stay in the University of Benin.

TABLE OF CONTENT

Title page	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	i
Certification	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	ii
Dedication	-	-	--	-	-	-	-	-	iii
Acknowledgement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	iv
Table of content	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	v
Abstract	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	ix

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	1							
1.2 Statement of the Problem	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	7							
1.3 Objectives of the Study	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
1.4 Research Question	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
1.5 Research Hypotheses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9

1.6 Significance of the Study	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9							
1.7 Scope of the Study	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
1.8 Conceptual Clarification of terms	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10							

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Literature Review	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
2.1.1 The Emergence of The Nigeria Police	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
2.1.2 Endsars Demands Nigerian Police Reform	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
2.1.3 What's Motivating Nigeria's Endsars Protests And Why Have They Focused On The Anti-Robbery Section Of The Police Force-							20
2.1.4 Incident Profiling Of Police Reformation	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
2.1.5 Implication of the Protest on National Peace and Security	-	-	-	-	-	-	26
2.1.6 Police Brutality In World's Most Populous Black Nation-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27
2.1.7 Human Rights	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

2.2	Theoretical Framework	-	-	-	-	-	-
	32						

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1	Research Design	-	-	-	-	-	-
	35						
3.2	Population of the Study	-	-	-	-	-	-
	35						
3.3	Sample size and Sampling Techniques	-	-	-	-	-	35
3.4	Method of Data Collection	-	-	-	-	-	36
3.5	Method of Data Analysis	-	-	-	-	-	36
3.6	Research Instrument	-	-	-	-	-	-
	37						
3.7	Validity of the Instrument	-	-	-	-	-	37
3.8	Reliability of the Instrument	-	-	-	-	-	38

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1	Introduction	-	-	-	-	-	-
	39						

4.2	Data Presentation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	39								
4.3	Analysis Of Research Questions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	42								
4.4	Testing of Hypotheses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50
4.5	Discussion of Findings	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	58								

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1	Summary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	64								
5.2	Conclusion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	64
5.3	Recommendations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	65								
	Bibliography	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	67								
	Appendix	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70

ABSTRACT

This study was designed to investigate the violation of human rights and ENDSARS protest in Delta state. The general objective of this study is to examine the violation of human rights and ENDSARS protest using Delta state as a case study. Other objectives include; to ascertain the underlying causes that led to ENDSARS protest in Delta state in particular and Nigeria at large, to ascertain the relationship between human rights abuse and ENDSARS protest in Delta state, to examine the strategies through which ENDSARS protest was executed in Delta state and to determine what extent ENDSARS protest has called for the eradication of corruption in Nigeria. The study adopted the survey research design using the “Taro yamane” formula as the sampling technique. The sample size for this study is four hundred (400) respondents. Questionnaires were administered to the sampled respondents as the instrument for data collection but three hundred and eighty three (383) questionnaires were retrieved. The questionnaires were framed to reflect every aspect of the research question. Data collected from the questionnaire was analyzed using descriptive statistics. Frequency distribution and percentage analysis was used to analyze the research question while an inferential statistics in terms of chi-squared (χ^2) was used to test the hypotheses raised. The findings of the study shows that the ENDSARS movement is driven by deep discontentment and systemic problems perceived by Nigerian citizens. Surveys show that Nigerians report very low levels of trust in the police and that most of them have paid or have been asked to a bribe to police. Findings also revealed how some police forces have been commercialized to serve the interests of politicians and rich individuals. The protest brought attention to the issue of police brutality in Nigeria on a global scale. The widespread use of social media allowed protesters to share evidence of police misconduct, leading to increased awareness and international condemnation. Findings also revealed that most of the respondents felt that the initial objective of completely addressing police brutality was not fully achieved. The findings of the study suggests that Government need to establish effective and independent oversight mechanisms to monitor police activities. In conclusion, the study provides insights and recommendations that can guide policy makers in making informed decisions on human rights.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Individuals in every country are entitled to enjoy certain privileges which are not just only given to them by nature but are enshrined in the constitution of that very country. These privilege are called human rights. These rights are defended in the law court of the country when being violated by either individuals to individual or the government to the citizens of the country. One of the stated human rights amongst others in Chapter Four, Section 33 and 40 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) is “Right to life” and “right to peaceful assemble and freedom of association with other persons” respectively.

The so-called dividends of democracy have not been realized by those who needed it the most. Under these conditions a protest has become an indispensable alternative for people to voice their opinions, grievances and demand in strong terms, for change in their destiny (Shigetomi, 2009).

At the beginning of the 21st century, there was the optimism that the century belongs to Africa, having lost the 20th century to rudderless political leadership, worsening economic crisis, corruption, Conflicts and failed state syndrome (this was known as Afro-optimism).

However, this optimism was diluted with circumspection given different predictions that Africa would still contend with state-induced violence against

its citizens in the new millennium. It was predicted that it is unlikely that Africa will be able to silence the guns by 2020 or by 2023 and that a high level of riots and protests will continue to be witnessed in Sub-Saharan Africa (Cilliers 2018: 2).

This has been the case in so many African countries, such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic, Libya, South Africa, Egypt, and many others. Ever since the Arab Spring of the 2010s, there has been a reoccurrence of deafening riots and protests in different African countries.

The Nigeria Police Force (NPF) is the principal law enforcement agency in Nigeria. The Force has staff deployed across the 36 states of the country and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). The command and control of the NPF is under the Inspector General of Police in accordance with Section 215(2) of the 1999 Constitution, and Section 6 of the Police Act, 1990. It is predicated on the regimental nature of the Force and conducted through the chain of Command along the Force badges of ranks. The major duties of the NPF are prevention and detection of crime, apprehension of offenders, preservation of law and order and protection of lives and property (Nigerian Police Force, 2021). The NPF is made up of different units. One of such units is the Special Anti-robbery Squad (SARS).

The Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) was a specialized unit of the NPF set up in 1992 to fight all forms of violent crimes, such as armed robbery, kidnapping, banditry, etc. (Nnadozie, 2017). It was established as a result of the growing number of robberies and theft which constituted the largest category of crimes in the early 1990s. For instance, crime data increased from 244,354 in 1991 to 289,156 in 1993. The formation of the SARS in 1992 contributed to significant crime reduction in the period from 289,156 in 1993 to 241,091 in 1994, and 167,492 in 1999 (Cleen, 2019)

However, over time, SARS began to overstep the bounds of its duties by arresting those who are alleged to be involved in non-violent crimes such as financial and economic fraud, which is under the purvey of the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC). It has also been reported that SARS officers mount illegal roadblocks, conduct unauthorized checks and searches, arrest and detain people without warrant or trial, rape women, and extort young Nigerians for driving exotic cars (Kazeem, 2020). In a special report published in June 2020, Amnesty International noted that people in SARS custody were 'subjected to a variety of methods of torture including hanging, mock execution, beating, punching and kicking, burning with cigarettes, waterboarding, near-asphyxiation with plastic bags, forcing detainees to assume stressful bodily positions and sexual violence' (Amnesty International, 2020)

The 2020 #EndSARS protests in Nigeria began on October 4, 2020, after a SARS police officer reportedly shot a young Nigerian man in front of the Wetland Hotel in Ughelli, Delta State. The video of the incident trended on social media, leading to nationwide protests within a few days (Abati, 2020). Even though #EndSARS began to trend on social media (e.g., Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, etc.) on October 4, 2020 (as a form of virtual protest), it was not until October 8, 2020 that nationwide street protests began across Nigerian cities, eventually assuming a global dimension as the protest rapidly spread to other cities across the world, including London and New York (Abati, 2020). Although these protests were taking place simultaneously across all major cities in Nigeria, the Lekki Toll Gate in Lagos, UNIBEN Main Gate in Benin, and various cities in Delta State were considered major national anchor points and epicentres of the #EndSARS protest.

Most of these riots spring up as a result of citizens' discontent with policy implementation and the desperate attempts by political leaders to defend themselves from the authoritarianism of their governments. Between 2017 and 2020, there were mass protests against police brutality and impunity in Nigeria. Amnesty International notes that there is abundant evidence of police torture of civilians, denying people arrested by the police access to the justice system, the partiality of the judges when administering justice, the inability of the police to address the complaints

of the arrested and extrajudicial killings. Worse still, the relevant authorities have refused to investigate and bring to book the police officers who perpetrate these crimes' against the people (Al Jazeera, 2020). The police also profile and dehumanize ordinary citizens who they see as criminals simply because they belong to certain groups (e.g., musicians, footballers and those in possession of modern gadgets like phones and cars). Amid these atrocities, there has been a public outcry against the excesses of police on social media, and by 2017, there was an online protest where about 28 million individuals from home and in the diaspora tweeted with the hashtag #ENDSARS to demand the disbanding of the unit of the police known as Special Anti-Robbery Squads (SARS), which is notorious for its brutality against the people. The EndSARS protest is equally contextualized within the deteriorating material conditions of life in Nigeria owing to how the government responded to the Covid-19 pandemic. Nigeria confirmed its first positive case of Covid-19 in February 2020 and responded to the global lockdown, which started from Abuja, without adequate social provisions. There was an announcement of palliatives, but it was characterized by outright lopsidedness and deliberate mismanagement such that most of the vulnerable people were shortchanged (Eranga, 2020). It is not difficult to imagine the negative impacts of ill-treatment on the people, given that the Nigerian economy thrives in the informal sector. By the time the news

filtered that the SARS had brutalized an individual in Ugheli, Delta State, people began to unleash their anger on the police on social media. As the protest started, many other young Nigerians, especially those from the tech-oriented community, musicians, and other celebrities, shared their own ugly, lamentable experiences from SARS on Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp and other social media platforms. The protesters demanded the abolition of SARS, immediate release of all arrested protesters, provisions of appropriate compensation for the families of the victims of police brutality, the establishment of an independent panel of inquiry on police brutality both at the federal and state levels and increasing the salary of police officers. Oduah, (2011) The federal government swiftly had a meeting with the leadership of the National Assembly, the police and the Human Rights Commission and resolved to dissolve, with immediate effect, the notorious police unit and replace it with Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT). It was also resolved that various panels of inquiry should be established at the states and the federal level to investigate people's complaints against SARS. Some of the panels, like the Delta state panel, paid some compensation to the victims of police brutality. In light of this background, the focus of the analysis is to examine the repercussions of police brutality and impunity, which triggered the recent #EndSARS protest.

1.2 STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Nigeria's poor socio-economic performance, human rights abuses, widespread poverty, insecurity, corruption and lack of trust in the political system have led to disenchantment among the electorate, especially the youth who make up 51% of the population. This matters in a fast-growing population of over 200 million, with more than 60% of people under 25 (NPC 2006).

The human cost of bad governance is evident in the low level of basic infrastructure, weak healthcare and educational system, high unemployment and the number of out-of-school children, amongst others. Across the socio-economic class divide, there is a feeling that the effects of bad governance will catch up with everyone someday. Katsina, (2012) However in a wake up call the recent protests by young Nigerians against police brutality, the EndSARS protests, exposed the gross human rights abuses suffered by many Nigerians at the hands of the institution created to protect them. More than about the police itself, the protests demonstrated the youth's discontentment with governance throughout the country. Nigerians are now demanding that the government tackles the root causes of poverty, insecurity, human rights abuses and socio-economic instability through the levels of good governance. #EndSARS brought young Nigerians from different religious and ethnic backgrounds together. Most protesters were united against police brutality despite their differences and this is largely why the protest gained momentum nationally. Against this backdrop of incessant police brutality and abuse of human rights,

that this study seek to reveal the implication of ENDSARS protest: a call for eradication of corruption in Nigeria.

1.3 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The main aim of this study is an attempt to examine the violation of human right and ENDSARS protest in Delta state. Specifically the study intends to:

1. To ascertain the underlying causes that led to ENDSARS protest in Delta state in particular and Nigeria at large
2. To ascertain the relationship between human right abuse and ENDSARS protest in Delta state
3. To examine the strategies through which ENDSARS protest was executed in Delta State.
4. To determine what extent ENDSARS protest called for eradication of corruption in Nigeria.

1.4 RESEARCH QUESTION.

1. What are the underlying causes that led to ENDSARS protest in Delta State in particular, and Nigeria at large?
2. What is the relationship between human rights abuse and ENDSARS protest in delta state?
3. What were the strategies through which ENDSARS protest was executed in Delta State?

4. To what extent has ENDSARS protest called for eradication of corruption in Nigeria?

1.5 RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS

The research hypotheses for this work will be based on the following:

HYPOTHESES I

H_i: There is a significant relationship between Human right violation and ENDSARS protest.

H₀: There is no significant relationship between Human right violation and ENDSARS protest .

HYPOTHESIS II

H₁: There is a significant relationship between ENDSARS protest and police brutality.

H₀: There is no significant relationship between ENDSARS protest and police brutality.

1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study would be relevance to the general public but specifically it will be significant I n the following ways:

It will expose the discontentment of the youth on the incessant abuse of human right as exhibited by authorities meant to protect them

It will awaken the government on the need to probe the misconduct and activities of the security agencies in Nigeria

It will draw the attention of policy makers on the urgent need to make viable reforms of law enforcement agencies and spell out their jurisdiction to ensure they do not abuse human right in the process of discharging their duties.

It will serve as a benchmark for researcher and students for further research on this topic or similar area in the future.

1.7 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of this study in general terms examine the impact of ENDSARS protest, calling for the eradication of corruption in Nigeria. Specifically the study will examine the activity of ENDSARS in Nigeria using Delta and Edo state as a case study. It will also focus on primary result through questionnaire reports on the assessment of the violation of human right in Delta state.

1.8 CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION OF TERMS

1. **CORRUPTION:** Corruption is a form of dishonesty or criminal offense undertaken by a person or organization entrusted with a position of authority, to acquire illicit benefit or abuse power for one's private gain.
2. **Eradication:** eradication is the process of getting rid of something completely or destroying something bad.
3. **PROTEST:** A statement or action expressing disapproval of or Objection to something.
4. **ENDSARS:** 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.

5. **HUMAN RIGHTS:** Rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion or any other status. Human rights include the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education and many more.
6. **VIOLATION:** The act of doing something that is not allowed by a law or rule.

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CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1.1 The Emergence of the Nigeria Police

The establishment of today's Nigeria police came as a result of 30-person consular guard under the authority of the then governor of British West Africa in October 1861. In 1861 governor of Lagos colony, McCoskry, organized and established the nucleus of the first police force- Hausa constabulary of 30 men (Aina, 2014). This formation marked the beginnings of the first modern police in the history of Lagos. It was also the first modern police force in the territories later designated Nigeria by the British (Aina, 2014). In 1879 there was the establishment of the constabulary of Lagos colony, with the appointment of the first commissioner of police in 1896. There come the royal Niger constabulary in 1886 which was established by the royal Niger Company for the northern territories. The British colonialist established the police institution for the purpose of advancing the European colonial commercial and strategic interests against the natives especially in the colony and the protectorates (Odikalu, 2004). Beland (2005) argue that the emerging ruling class in colonial Nigeria was a foreign and illegitimate one which sought to dominate and exploits the indigenous people in the interests of its own metropolitan (British) economy. The effort of this foreign ruling class to subdue

the indigenous people and to impose a careful surveillance over them in order to forestall any popular resection created an obsession with the policing of public order.

By 1900 the royal Niger constabulary spitted into two groups, the northern Nigeria police force for the colony and police force and regiment for the protectorate. The force of the colony later emerged with the southern Nigeria police force. 1914 amalgamation had two different police formation for both Northern and Southern Nigeria. In 1930, colonial government established Nigeria Police force headed by an Inspector-General. However, regionalization of police formations remained (Odikalu, 2004).

Section 4 of the police acts of 1967 provides that “the police shall be employed for the prevention and detection of crime, the apprehension of offenders, preservation of law and order, the protection of life and property and the due enforcement of all laws and regulations with which they are directly charged and shall perform such military duties within or outside Nigeria as may be required of them by, or under the authority of this or any other act”. Aina (2014) postulate that the duties are stationary and the police owe these duties to the generality of Nigerians and all other persons lawfully living within Nigeria. They are therefore answerable to the law in performance of their duties. The question then is does Nigeria police perform this duties effectively and

effectively as they ought to. Majority of Nigerians are of the opinion that police performance has being below good commendation.

What does effectiveness and efficiency mean to police work? Effectiveness means task performance. Effective organizations are those which meet challenges put to them and satisfy demands for services or solve problems. Also, Efficiency is defined in terms of processing costs. Efficient organizations are those which convert inputs into outputs with less organizational efforts. Efficient organization gives us more for our money. Etzioni(1964) explain that efficiency is a concept by which we assess the processing activity of organization, how they go about facing problems, while effectiveness is a concept which denotes their goal matching, their ability to solve substantive problems. Katsina (2012) posited that effectiveness is the ability of the force to successfully perform its assigned tasks; and by efficiency it is the capacity to perform its functions with the least amount of “waste”, in terms of time, material, personnel public good will, and lives. Therefore, efficient police is the one that achieve a level of input output conversion with less effort on the part of the organization: fewer men, less equipment, or lower expenditures Katsina(2012).

In lieu of these, the importance of policing the society and the people’s perception of the government which the police represent cannot be

overestimated. Katsina (2012) gives three points that when considered, it will make it becomes clearer.

1. Policemen are the government officials most proximate to crime, temporarily and procedurally, and the leading figures in crime prevention or control and in the law enforcement process.
2. Policemen's honesty, integrity and observations of procedural laws in handling offenders and non-offenders have deep implications for the citizens' perceptions: fairness and justice and for the degree of respect the average citizen has for the law;
3. Being highly visible (compared to courts or prisons) and being the primary or main government authority legally authorized to use force on citizens, policemen's behavior affect the citizen's opinion about their government.

For the purpose of this study, it is appropriate to discuss what constitutes security. Gasiokwu (2003) assert that explaining security in modern times is a question that has never been answered satisfactorily by scholars. Its perception even within one community varies in time. Thomas Hobbes (1951) sees security as the protection of lives and property and entire law and order through political sovereignty and monopoly of violence which state/ government provide. As define by South African White Paper on Defence (1996), security is an all-encompassing condition in which individual citizen live in freedom,

peace and safety, participate fully in the process of governance. Enjoy the protection of fundamental right, have access to resource and the basic necessities of life, and inhabit an environment which is not determined to their health and will being. This definition presents that security cut across all human existence. Until now, most of the definition on security literarily tends towards the arguments of Thomas Hobbes as pointed out above. Oduah (2011) postulate that it is a state's capabilities to defend it territorial integrity from threats, actual and imagined, as well as acts of aggression from other potential enemies. This is what state's built and equips armed forces to achieve. At the domestic level, the belief is that internal law enforcement agencies and other instruments of domestic intelligence are all that is required for a state to be secured (Katsina, 2012). This is where Nigeria police comes into play. The internal security is primarily the business of the police. Basically, the Police are to fulfill government's primary obligation of catering for the security and welfare of the people. Escalation of social disorder and instability in the country challenges the role police in combating crimes and criminality.

Insecurity according to The Nigeria Police Force (2008) is their annual report, highlighted that security has attracted some common description and want of safety, danger, hazard, uncertainty, want of confidence, state of doubt, inadequately guarded or protected, instability, trouble, lack of protection and being unsafe, and others. The report argued further that these common

descriptors point out to a condition where there exists a vulnerability to harm, loss of life, property and livelihood. So insecurity is therefore considered as a state of not knowing, a lack of control, and the inability to take defensive action against forces that portend harm to danger to an individual or group, or that make them vulnerable. Furthermore, Beland (2005) aver that insecurity is “the state of fear or anxiety stemming from a concrete or alleged lack of protection. Putting all the above stated explanation together, the state of Nigeria security can be seen clear as one that is under threats. The nation is undergoing a serious state of insecurity challenges that have bedeviled the affairs of the state such as terrorism, kidnapping, militancy, religion upheaval. This study consider the challenges of insecurity in Nigeria alongside with the factors that contribute to it.

2.1.2 Endsars Demands Nigerian Police Reform

Nigeria’s largest protests in a generation are calling for police and governance reforms—and expose long-delayed initiatives to enhance professionalism and oversight of Nigerian police.

The carjacking and shooting of a young man in Delta state by Nigeria’s Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) police officers in October sparked widespread public outrage. Almost immediately, many young Nigerians began sharing their anger and their own experiences with SARS on social media, calling themselves the Soro Soke (“the Speak Up”) generation. Within days, the

EndSARS hashtag became a movement that gave voice to Nigerians fed up with the violence, extortion, and impunity of the notorious police unit. Over the following weeks, numerous protests and vigils were held across Nigeria, transcending the country's religious, ethnic, and political divides.

The protests came to a head on October 20 when Nigerian security forces fired on protestors staging a sit-in on a toll road in the Lekki area of Lagos. Twelve people were killed, adding to dozens who have died across the country during the protests. Witnesses claim army and police officers were responsible for the unprovoked Lekki shooting. The incident was added to an inquiry established to look into the SARS abuses.

The ENDSARS movement is driven by deep discontentment and systemic problems perceived by Nigerian citizens. Surveys show that Nigerians report very low levels of trust in the police—and that a third of them have paid or been asked to pay a bribe to police. Experts describe how some police forces have been commercialized to serve the interests of politicians and rich individuals rather than to protect the public. Nigeria's National Human Rights Commission reported that security forces extra-judicially killed at least 18 people while enforcing the country's COVID-19 lockdowns earlier this year. Incidents of police violence are common in the national news.

Partners West Africa Executive Director Kemi Okenyodo has long called for police reform in Nigeria. The Africa Center spoke to her about the meaning of the EndSARS movement and what it portends for police reform in Nigeria.

2.1.3 What's Motivating Nigeria's Endsars Protests And Why Have

They Focused On The Anti-Robbery Section Of The Police Force?

Armed robbery is one of the most serious security threats facing Nigeria. Over the years it's become more violent and widespread across the country. The State Anti-Robbery Section—part of the State Criminal Investigation Departments within the 36 state commands and FCT (Federal Capital Territory)—has long been ineffective due to the perennial challenges facing the Nigerian Police Force (NPF). These include undertrained personnel, lack of funding, inadequate equipment, and weak supervision and accountability, to mention a few.

Rather than address these challenges, the NPF, in its wisdom, set up the Federal Special Anti-Robbery Squad (FSARS), which operates directly under the Inspector General of Police, with an Abuja-based Commissioner of Police overseeing their activities. FSARS was established across the 36 states and FCT. They do not report to the States' Commissioners of Police.

When it was created in the 1990s, the FSARS team was said to be effective and busted armed robbery operations across the country. However, over time, the perennial challenges of Nigeria's police institutions caught up with them.

FSARS engaged in human rights violations particularly torture, extrajudicial killings, and disappearances of suspects in their custody, among other allegations.

Youth are particularly targeted, mainly because of their naiveté and lack of knowledge of their rights as citizens. Police officers, meanwhile, often hold unsupported stereotypes against youth—tagging them as criminals, internet fraudsters, or armed robbers—because of dreadlocks, ripped jeans, tattoos, flashy cars, or ostensibly expensive gadgets like smart phones. The targeting has not been gender-specific, so young women have also fallen victim.

There has been a series of efforts to reform FSARS/SARS over the years, however none has worked so far. They have been disbanded several times, however, have always found their way back into existence.

Now, Nigerians are protesting to put an end to SARS' human rights abuses and lack of accountability.

2.1.4 Incident Profiling of Police Reformation

The nationwide demonstrations against Police officers of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) continue to gain momentum across States. These demonstrations have generated increased conversations on the prevalence of human rights abuses perpetuated by security operatives and the inadequacies of law enforcement agencies to bring the perpetrators of abuses to justice. On the other hand, issues of inadequate police funding and capacity building are

among the underlying factors that account for lack of professionalism and corrupt practices in the security service's discharge of duties (WANEP, 2020).

The increased agitations by Nigerian youths against SARS brutalities and extra-judicial killings were recently re-ignited by a video shared via social media showcasing a SARS officer assaulting a young Nigerian in Delta State on October 3, 2020. Subsequently, several other pictures and videos of similar assaults and extortion by officers of the SARS resurfaced in the social media with an EndSARS hashtag created

to further amplify the issues in national conversations. This led to uncoordinated protests by youths calling for the dissolution of the SARS and metamorphosed into a national protest since October 8, 2020 (WANEP, 2020).

From October 8-16, 2020, twenty-six (26) States out of 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) recorded series of demonstrations in Nigeria. The States include; Abuja-FCT, Lagos, Enugu, Ogun, Oyo, Delta, Imo, Edo, Ondo, Ekiti, Anambra, Kogi, Osun, Kano, River, Plateau, Jigawa, Benue, Akwa-Ibom, Bayelsa, Bauchi, Adamawa, Abia, Kwara, Borno and Ebonyi States. Also, Sokoto, Kaduna, Taraba, Katsina, Yobe, Zamfara, Kebbi and Gombe States have protested for the retention of the SARS and its deployment to the North to tackle banditry, cattle rustling, kidnapping and other crimes that persist in the States (WANEP, 2020).

Similarly, the protest has gained extensive international support with solidarity protests carried out in London, Dublin and Ireland in the United Kingdom and New York in the United States of America on October 11, 2020; Toronto in Canada and Berlin in Germany on October 12, 2020; Nigeria High Commission in Accra, Ghana on October 13, 2020; and the Nigerian Embassy in Johannesburg in South Africa on October 15, 2020, as monitored by WANEP.

Besides, the unlawful search of phones and laptops, illegal profiling of youths as fraudsters, extra-judicial killings and subjecting arrested persons to torture by officers of the SARS highlights the deficiencies in the police accountability system and practice that have characterized the Police Service over the years (WANEP, 2020). Between January 2017 to May 2020, the Amnesty International (AI) documented 82 cases of torture, ill-treatment and extra-judicial killings by officers of the SARS in Anambra, Enugu, Imo and Lagos States alone (WANEP, 2020).

Although the series of protests have been generally regarded as peaceful, suspected hoodlums exploited the protests to increase their criminal activities as recorded in Delta, Abuja-FCT, Lagos, Osun and Edo States. This resulted in 3 deaths in Delta and Edo States with several injuries in Abuja, Edo, Delta, Osun and Lagos States and destruction of vehicles. Also, WANEP NEWS recorded cases of police clampdown, arrest, physical assaults and violent disruption of the protests in Abuja-FCT, Lagos, Ogun, Osun and Oyo States (WANEP, 2020).

Between October 8 and 13, 2020, the WANEP NEWS recorded 5 deaths (including 1 police officer) and 9 injuries during the protest in Oyo and Delta States. Also, in the Surulere axis of Lagos State, attempts by suspected hoodlums to break into a police station to release two convicted criminals during the protest resulted in a shoot-out that led to the death of 2 people (including 1 police officer) with 2 police officers injured (WANEP, 2020). In addition, between October 14-16, 2020, 4 people were reported dead with 3 others injured in road accidents caused by reckless driving during the EndSARS protest in Lagos, Abuja-FCT and Ondo, as recorded in the WANEP NEWS (WANEP, 2020). On October 15, 2020, the Federal Capital Territory Security Committee issued a ban on all street demonstrations in Abuja-FCT to curb the spread of COVID-19.

The agitations has prompted series of actions by the Federal Government and the Inspector General of Police (IGP), Mohammed Adamu, which includes;the ban on officers of the SARS and other Tactical Squads from routine security patrols across States on October 4, 2020 States and the subsequent disbandment of the SARS unit on October 11, 2020 (WANEP, 2020). Again, on October 13, 2020, the IGP set up a new Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team to replace the disbanded SARSunit26.In addition, the IGP and representatives of the Presidential Panel on the Reform of the SARS also approved the five-points demands issued by the protesters on October

13, 2020. The five-points demands of protesters include, release of all persons arrested; justice for victims of police brutality; salary increment of the police, psychological evaluation of all disbanded SARS as well as investigations and prosecution of all reports of police misconduct (WANEP, 2020).

In a follow-

upto the interventions made by the Federal Government and the IGP, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has commenced plans to set up an Independent Investigation Panel to look into human rights violation by the SARS. This is also in conformity with the establishment of state-based judicial panels of inquiry by the National Economic Council (NEC) to investigate complaints of police brutality. Also, all State Governors are to set up a panel for compensation of all victims, as directed by the meeting of the Nigeria Governors' Forum. As of October 13, 2020, the Lagos State Governor set up a 200 million naira trust fund to compensate victims of police brutality in the State. Despite these immediate interventions and commitments to police reform, the protests persist.

2.1.5 Implication of the Protest on National Peace and Security

a) Continued demonstrations by the agitated youths amid several interventions reveals deep-seated resentment in the youths against the State, which further indicates trust deficit between the State and citizenry, with ripple effect on social cohesion in the country. This has potential to trigger lawlessness and disruption of public order. It could also intersect with organized crimes and armed violence in the affected areas to exacerbate insecurity in the country, if the protests continues unabated.

b) The SARS brutality violates the fundamental human rights of victims as enshrined in the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria. The effect of the abuses can be devastating, with long-term physical and psychological harm to victims. This further increases the risk of human insecurity and reduces public confidence in the activities of law enforcement agencies in the country.

c) The protests have resulted in the disruption of vehicular movements and business activities. This may likely have adverse effect on economic activities and livelihoods of population in the affected areas due to fear of looting and destruction of valuables by hoodlums. Additionally, with many vehicles stranded due to the gridlock, there is also the risk of theft by criminal networks exploiting the insecurity created to attack commuters.

d) The risk of an increase in COVID-19 transmission is imminent given the crowded procession and demonstration as well as the failure of some protesters to abide by the COVID-19 safety guidelines put in place to mitigate the spread

of the pandemic. Nigeria is still recording cases of COVID-19. Between October 8 and 15, 2020, about 1,244 new cases of COVID-19 were recorded across 25 States of Niger, Imo, Ebonyi, Anambra, Lagos, Rivers, Abuja-FT, Oyo, Bauchi, Ogun, Delta, Kano, Benue, Edo, Nassarawa, Plateau, Osun, Akwa-Ibom, Ekiti, Yobe, Ondo, Bayelsa, Taraba, Katsina and Enugu States.

2.1.6 Police Brutality In World's Most Populous Black Nation

Prior to the ENDSARS movement, there had never been any movement to protest police brutality in Nigeria. Amnesty International and other civil societies had been acting as lonely voices and most CSOs protested isolated cases.

Amnesty International has reported on and campaigned against the use of torture by law enforcement agencies for years in Nigeria. In November 2014, it released the report “Welcome to hellfire”: Torture and other ill-treatment in Nigeria. This report revealed that the use of torture and other forms of ill-treatment is widespread and routine in military and police custody across Nigeria. In the years following the publication of said report, torture has remained widespread across police units, but especially in those of SARS. Two Nigerian human rights organizations, the Network on Police Reform in Nigeria (NOPRIN) and the Human Rights Social Development and Environmental Foundation (HURSDEF), have also accused the Nigerian police of using torture

to force confessions out of suspects and using these confessions in courts as basis for conviction (Amnesty International, 2016).

Even though they are responsible for enforcing the law, the Nigerian Police Force (NPF) is rife with problems as hinted above. Some of the problems are; corruption, brutality, poor relationships with communities which sometimes leads to more abuse, poor recruitment practices (this includes inadequate training for new recruits), poor working conditions for the NPF, inadequate welfare package etc (Ayoyo, 2018; Chinwokwu, 2016; Ojo, 2014). Typically, these are big problems that can hinder the effective performance of the NPF. It therefore comes as no surprise that the execution of responsibilities by some over-zealous officers have done more harm than good in society. However, it is worthy to note that the abuse of power by members of the NPF can be traced back to the colonial era (Akinlabi, 2017; Edet, 2017; Ikuteyijo & Rotimi, 2014; Ojo, 2014).

Although the abuse of power can be found in almost all police formations in the world, the nature and extent of this abuse varies from country to country and from one clime to another. Thus, police abuse of power appears to be higher in totalitarian and authoritarian regimes as well as in military dictatorships than in democratic societies and governments (Bothmley, 2004). Even though it is a democratic society, this abuse of power has been well documented in Nigeria.

In recent times, this abuse has been alleged to follow a pattern of targeting Nigerian youth. This gave rise to the EndSARS movement on twitter.

2.1.7 Human Rights

There is no generally acceptable definition of human rights. This is perhaps because scholars have different opinions about the concept. It is something which is owing to every human being simply because he is human. Human rights are freedoms and benefits enjoyed by individuals in the society in which they live. To Bryan (2004, p .10), human rights are freedoms, immunities and benefits that, according to modern values, all human beings should be able to claim as a matter of rights in the society in which they live. In the same vein, Craston, (1976, p.52) sees human rights as something of which no one may be deprived of, without great affront to justice. There are certain deeds, which should never be done, certain freedoms, which should never be invaded; some things which are supremely sacred.

Human rights are the basic rights available to every person. These are the inalienable, fundamental rights to which a person is inherently entitled to simply because he or she is a human being regardless of their colour, religion, language, nation etc.

The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and International law contains the principles of Fundamental human rights, such as the African

Charter on Peoples' Rights (Article 9 (1) and (2), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, (Articles 12 and 13) among others.

From the foregoing, human rights can be seen as all those rights that every citizen of a state ought to have without any deprivation. They are those inalienable rights of every individual, whether old or young, poor or rich, male or female. They are not given to human beings as gifts. This explains why Arinze (2008, p. 12) argues that human rights are not gifts from men to women or other men that are open to withdrawal or cancellation at the whims and caprices of the giver. Human rights are not subject to withdrawal or to be held at the pleasure of anybody or granted when it pleases the giver. Eze, cited in Gasiokwu (2003, p.2) sees human rights as that which represents the demands or claims, which individuals or groups make on society, some of which are protected by law and have become part of "Lex Lata" while others remain aspirations to be attained in the future. Gasiokwu (2003, p.4) avers that some human rights provisions have been enacted into various national constitutions of the world in some of which are being referred to as fundamental rights. Perrett, cited in Gasiokwu (2003) argues that if the fundamental rights being asserted is intended to be legal rights, such rights are properly called fundamental when they are expressed in or guaranteed by laws, which are basic or pre-eminent laws of the legal system in question. For example, rights which are specified in a written constitution or in judgments of a legislature designed

to render the constitution more specific in certain areas. Some other legal rights may be called 'fundamental' where, although the rules containing them are not all constitutional, in the sense that they are or closely appertain to the rules that Kelsen would call part Groundnorms or Hart, the basic rules of recognition, adjudication and change of the legal system. Nevertheless, these rights are legally basic in the sense that their existence and content is essential to the existence and content of many other lesser rights of the system.

Corroborating the above view, Oduah (2011, p. 6) notes that there is a great difference between fundamental rights and human rights. Oduah, quoting Nasir, notes that due to the development of constitutional law in this field, distinct difference has emerged between 'Fundamental Rights and Human Rights. It may be recalled that human rights were the wider concept of natural rights. They are rights which every civilized society must accept as belonging to each person as human being. These are termed 'Human Rights. When the United Nations made this declaration, it was envisaged that certain rights belong to all human rights, irrespective of citizenship, race and religion, etc. This has now formed part of our international law. They are fundamental because they have been guaranteed by the fundamental law of the country that is, the constitution. From the foregoing, fundamental human rights may be seen as such freedoms, which are expressed in or guaranteed by basic or pre-eminent laws. These rights are usually referred to in some constitutions as the rights to freedoms of thought,

conscience and religion, right to freedom of press and speech, right to freedom of movement, freedom from discrimination. The freedom of information law that was signed into law in Nigeria recently is a fundamental human right. Thus, in this context, fundamental rights are tied to fundamental freedoms.

2.2 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This study adopted structural functionalism theory. The theory has a broad perspective. Scholars like Emile Durkheim, Malinoskiwi, Talcott parsons among other have contributed to the development of the theory. The theory addresses the society as an organic whole in which each of its element like institutions work together to maintain the other. Various parts of the society are seeing to be closely related and taken together as a complete system. The security agencies like the Nigeria police work to support the existence of government to providing security for the lives and properties of its people and all that is in it. Therefore any lapses in the police system directly or indirectly tells on the general security and well begin of the people which will on long run lead to state of insecurity. Hence, the proper functioning of each part of the society ensures the well begin and the survival of the whole society (Bothamley, 2004).

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CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 RESEARCH DESIGN

This study will adopt the survey research design. According to Nworgu (1999), defines survey research as one in which a group of people or items are studied by collecting analyzing data from only a few or items considered to be representative of the entire group. Thus, this study, the researcher collected data from the selected respondents in Ika South Local Government Area of Delta State, Nigeria. The researcher applied descriptive survey design. This is because descriptive survey research allows for selection of an entire proportion out of the researcher's entire population to arrive at a generalization of how the population feel, behave or act towards the abuses done by the police, and also gives and in-depth answers.

3.2 POPULATION OF THE STUDY

It refers to group of targeted individuals that make up a particular research and a research topic. According to the National Population Commission report of 2022, the total estimate population of people in Delta State is 5.6 million.

3.3 SAMPLE SIZE AND SAMPLING TECHNIQUES

The researcher adopted the Taro Yamane formula as sampling technique. Out of total population of 5.6 million people, 400 people were selected. Below is the illustration for the Taro Yamane formular;

$$n = N/(1+N(e))^2$$

Where;

n = the sample size

N = the population under study

e = margin error

The sample size is calculated as follows;

$$n = 5600000/1+5600000 (0.05)^2$$

$$n = 5600000/1+5600000 (0.0025)$$

$$n = 5600000/1+14000$$

$$n = 5600000/14001$$

$$n = 399.9$$

$$\text{or, } n = 400$$

3.4 METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

The researcher used structured questionnaire as instrument for data collection.

The questionnaire was made up of two sections. Section A & B.

Section A contains six (6) items which was designed to obtain personal information about the respondent such as educational qualification, sex, etc.

Section B was designed to solve the problem on the subject matter.

3.5 METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS

The data collected were analyzed using simple percentages and tables to analyze research questions while Chi-square statistical tool will be employed to

test the research hypotheses stated earlier in chapter one of this research. This will reveal the magnitude to the study and presents in a tabular form for consciousness and easy understanding.

3.6 RESEARCH INSTRUMENT

The instrument for data collection was a structured questionnaire, titled “Violation of human Rights and Endsars Protest in Delta State”. There are 2 sections which are the personal data, and general information respectively. There are nine (20) statement items in the instrument. The structured questionnaire was designed to collect information that would help to answer the research questions and test the hypotheses formulated for the study.

3.7 VALIDITY OF THE INSTRUMENT

The instrument used for the research was verified and considered reliable by experts and professionals in the field. The validity of the instrument will be determined by the face and content validity criteria. The face validity was obtained by giving the instrument to the project supervisor and two other scholars who examine the instrument for content coverage and suitability for the study following which the instrument was adjudged valid

3.8 RELIABILITY OF THE INSTRUMENT

The reliability of the instrument was determined by pilot- testing it in Delta State. Data collected were analyzed using Chi-Square. The researcher considered the figure satisfactory for the investigation based on the creditable use of similar figures in many acclaimed studies. Example Ezumazu (2015) and Nworgu (2015) noted alike.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the empirical analysis of the data retrieved from respondents in the field survey. Specifically, the questionnaire was distributed and shared to the populations in Delta State. A total response of 400 questionnaires were administered, out of which 383 were retrieved. The data from the responses were retrieved, cleared and used for this analysis indicating a response rate of 95.75%.

4.2 DATA PRESENTATION

Table 1: Administration of Questionnaire

Variables		Frequency	Percent (%)
	Valid Questionnaire filled and returned	383	95.8
	Questionnaire not returned	17	4.2
	Total	400	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2023.

Table 1 above shows that out of 400 copies of questionnaire structured and distributed to the selected respondents in the state, 383 (95.8%) were retrieved, while 17 (4.2%) copies of questionnaires were unable to be retrieved.

SECTION A: (DEMOGRAPHIC DATA)

Table 2: Respondent by Gender Profile

	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	265	69.2
Female	118	30.8
Total	383	100

Source: Author's Computation (2023)

In the distribution by gender of the respondents, the above table shows that majority of the respondents were male. This category of respondents accounted for 265 (69.2%) male of the total respondents while 118 (30.8%) were female.

Table 3: Age Distribution of Respondents

Age Range	Frequency	Percentage (%)
20 – 25 years	95	24.8
26 – 30 years	137	35.8
31 – 35 years	81	21.1
36 years and above	70	18.3
Total	383	100

Source: Author's Computation (2023)

On the age range distribution of the respondents, table 3 indicates that most of the respondents were aged 26 – 30 years. This category of respondents

accounted for 137 (35.8%) of the total respondents, while 95 (24.8%) were aged 20-25years, 81 (21.1%) were aged 31 - 35 years, while 70 (18.3%) were 36 years upwards.

Table 4: Distribution by Employment Status

Employment Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Civil Servant	25	6.5
Self Employed	103	26.9
Unemployed	183	47.8
Student	72	18.8
Total	383	100

Source: Author’s Computation (2023)

On the employment status range distribution of the respondents, table 4 indicates that most of the respondents are unemployed. This category of respondents accounted for 183 (47.8%) of the total respondents, while 25 (6.5%) are civil servants, 103 (26.9%) make up the self employed category, the remaining 72 (18.8%) are students..

Table 5: Distribution by Academic Qualification

	Frequency	Percentage (%)
ND/NCE	157	41
HND/B.SC	115	30
MBA/M.SC	74	19.3
PH.D	13	3.4
Others	24	6.3
Total	383	100.0

Source: Author's Computation (2023)

On the category of academic qualification, table 5 indicates that majority of the respondents were ND/NCE holders. This category accounted for 157(41%) of the total respondents, while 115 (30%) were HND/B.SC degree holders, 74 (19.3%) were MBA/M.SC holders, 13 (3.4%) were Ph.D holders, and finally, 24 (6.3%) ticked Others.

4.3 ANALYSIS OF RESEARCH QUESTIONS

SECTION B

In this section, data were analyzed and discussed based on the research question used for the study. The responses were analyzed with the use of frequency count and simple percentage.

RESEARCH QUESTION ONE(1): What are the underlying causes that led to ENDSARS protest in Delta state in particular and Nigeria at large?

TABLE 6: Underlying Causes That Led To ENDSARS Protest

S/N	ITEMS	Agreed	Undecided	Disagreed	Agreed %	Undecided %	Disagreed %
1	The wide spread incidents of police brutality, including harassment, extortion and deliberate killings of persons by the special anti-robbery squad (SARS) is the major cause which resulted to the ENDSARS protest.	310	60	13	80.94%	15.67%	3.39%
2	Officers involved in human rights abuses were rarely punished and this resulted to the ENDSARS protest.	348	0	35	90.86%	0%	9.14%
3	The inclusiveness of youths in decision making process is an underlying cause that led to the ENDSARS protest.	9	0	374	2.35%	0%	97.65%
4	Rampant corruption across various sectors of the Nigerian society is not an underlying cause that led to the ENDSARS protest.	134	11	238	34.99%	2.87%	62.14%
5	The influence of social media as a platform that provides a space for individuals to share their experiences with Police brutality, fueled and resulted to the ENDSARS protest.	355	0	28	92.69%	0%	7.31%
	TOTAL	383			100		

Source: Field work, 2023.

As shown in table six (6) above, 80.94% (310 respondents) agreed that the widespread incidents of police brutality is the major cause which resulted to the ENDSARS protest while 15.67% (60 respondents) were indecisive and 3.39% (13 respondents) disagreed. 90.86% (348 respondents) also agreed that officers involved in human rights abuses were rarely punished while 9.14% (35 respondents) disagreed. 2.35% (9 respondents) agreed that the inclusiveness of youths in decision making process is an underlying cause that led to the ENDSARS protest while the remaining 97.65% (374 respondents) disagreed. 34.99% (134 respondents) agreed that rampant corruption across various sectors of the Nigerian society is not an underlying cause that led to the ENDSARS protest while 62.14% (238 respondents) disagreed and only 2.87% (11 respondents) were indecisive.. 92.69% (355 respondents) agreed that the influence of social media as a platform that provides a space for individual to share their experiences with police brutality fueled and resulted to the ENDSARS protest while 7.31% (28 respondents) opposed it.

RESEARCH QUESTION TWO (2): What is the relationship between human right abuse and ENDSARS protest in Delta State?

Table 7: Relationship Between Human Right Abuse And ENDSARS Protest

S/N	ITEMS	Agreed	Undecided	Disagreed	Agreed %	Undecided %	Disagreed%
6	The ENDSARS protest shed light on the systemic nature of human right abuses in Delta state and Nigeria at large.	306	59	18	79.89%	15.41%	4.70%
7	The ENDSARS protest provided a platform for victims of human right abuses to share their stories and experiences.	352	9	22	91.90%	2.40%	5.74%
8	The ENDSARS protest played a role in raising awareness about human right among the general population in Delta state.	325	20	38	84.86%	5.22%	9.92%
9	The ENDSARS protest in Delta state and across Nigeria sought justice for victims of human right abuses.	345	29	9	90.08%	7.57%	2.35%
10	The ENDSARS protest in Delta state did not empower victims of human rights abuses to speak out against their oppressors.	30	11	342	7.83%	2.87%	89.30%
	TOTAL	383			100		

Source: Field work, 2023.

As shown in table seven (7) above, 79.89% (306 respondents) agreed that the ENDSARS protest shed light on the systemic nature of human rights abuses in Delta state and Nigeria at large, while 15.14% (58 respondents) were indecisive and only 4.70% (18 respondents) disagreed. 91.90% (352 respondents) agreed that the ENDSARS protests provided a platform for victims of human rights abuses to share their stories and experiences while 5.74% (22 respondents) disagreed and the remaining 2.40% (9 respondents) were indecisive. 84.86% (325 respondents) also agreed that the ENDSARS protest played a role in raising awareness about human rights among the general population in Delta state while 5.22% (20 respondents) were indecisive and the remaining 9.92% (38 respondents) opposed it. 90.08% (345 respondents) agreed that the ENDSARS protest in Delta state and across Nigeria sought justice for victims of human rights abuses while 7.57% (29 respondents) were indecisive and only 2.35% (9 respondents) disagreed. 7.83% (30 respondents) agreed that the ENDSARS protest in Delta state did not empower victims of human rights abuses to speak out against their oppressors while 2.87% (11 respondents) were indecisive and the remaining 89.30% (342 respondents) disagreed.

RESEARCH QUESTION THREE (3): What were the strategies through which ENDSARS protest was executed in Delta state?

Table 8: Strategies Through Which ENDSARS Protest Was Executed

S/N	ITEMS	Agreed	Undecided	Disagreed	Agreed %	Undecided %	Disagreed %
11	Platforms such as twitter, instagram and facebook to share information and mobilize supporters were utilized during the ENDSARS protest	370	0	13	96.60%	0%	3.40%
12	Hashtags like #ENDSARS and # End Police Brutality was used as a strategy during the ENDSARS protest to amplify the message and create a viral movement.	364	9	10	95.04%	2.35%	2.61%
13	Recording instances of police brutality, sharing videos, testimonies and other evidence to raise awareness and garner support was a major strategy used during the ENDSARS protest.	304	0	79	79.37%	0%	20.63%
14	Holding meetings, dialogue sessions and negotiations with government representatives was not a strategy used during the ENDSARS protest.	58	42	283	15.14%	10.97%	73.89%
15	Organizing large scale protest and rallies to raise awareness and demand change was a major strategy utilized during the ENDSARS protest.	376	0	7	98.17%	0%	1.83%
	TOTAL	383			100		

Source: Field work, 2023

Table eight (8) shows that 96.60% (370 respondents) agreed that platforms such as twitter, Instagram and Facebook to share information and mobilize supporters were utilized during the ENDSARS protest while the remaining 3.40% (13 respondents) disagreed. 95.04% (364 respondents) also agreed that hashtags like #EndSars, #End Police Brutality was used as a strategy during the ENDSARS protest to amplify the message and create a viral movement, 2.61% (10 respondents) disagreed and the remaining 2.35% (9 respondents) were indecisive. 79.37% (304 respondents) agreed that recording instances of police brutality, sharing videos, testimonies and other evidence to raise awareness and garner support was a major strategy used during the ENDSARS protest while 20.63% (79 respondents) disagreed. 15.14% (58 respondents) agreed that holding meetings, dialogue sessions and negotiations with government representatives was not a strategy used during the ENDSARS protest while 10.97% (42 respondents) were indecisive and the remaining 73.89% (283 respondents) disagreed. 98.17% (376 respondents) agreed that organizing large scale protests and rallies to raise awareness and demand change was a major strategy utilized during the ENDSARS protest while the remaining 1.83% (7 respondents) disagreed.

RESEARCH QUESTION FOUR (4): To what extent has ENDSARS protest called for the eradication of corruption in Nigeria?

Table 9: Extent at which ENDSARS protest has called for the eradication of corruption in Nigeria

S/N	ITEMS	Agreed	Undecided	Disagreed	Agreed %	Undecided %	Disagreed%
16	Public trust in law enforcement agencies have increased since the ENDSARS protest.	41	53	289	10.70%	13.84%	75.46%
17	Police brutality, including harassment, extortion and deliberate killings of individuals have stopped since the ENDSARS protest.	14	49	320	3.66%	12.79%	83.55%
18	The aims and objectives of the ENDSARS protest was achieved in Delta state.	134	39	210	34.99%	10.18%	54.83%
19	Since the ENDSARS protest, there have been transparency in government operations particularly in budgeting and public service delivery.	23	64	296	6.01%	16.71%	77.28%
20	The ENDSARS protest was a proof that the Nigerian government respect the human right of its citizens.	14	0	369	3.66%	0%	96.34%
TOTAL		383			100		

Source: Field work, 2023.

Table nine (9) shows that 10.70% (41 respondents) agreed that public trust in law enforcement agencies have increased since the ENDSARS protest while 13.84% (53 respondents) were indecisive and the remaining 75.46% (289 respondents) disagreed. 3.66% (14 respondents) agreed that police brutality, including harassment, extortion and deliberate killings of individuals have

stopped since the ENDSARS protest while 12.79% (49 respondents) were indecisive and the remaining 83.55% (320 respondents) disagreed. 34.99% (134 respondents) agreed that the aims and objectives of the ENDSARS protest was achieved in Delta state while 10.18% (39 respondents) were indecisive and the remaining 54.83% (210 respondents) disagreed. 6.01% (23 respondents) agreed that since the ENDSARS protest, there have been transparency in government operations, particularly in budgeting and public service delivery while 16.71% (64 respondents) were indecisive and 77.28% (296 respondents) agreed . 3.66% (14 respondents) agreed that the ENDSARS protest was a proof that the Nigerian government respects the human rights of its citizens and the remaining 96.34% (369 respondents) disagreed.

4.4 TEST OF HYPOTHESES

TEST OF HYPOTHESIS ONE (1):

H_i: There is a significant relationship between Human right violation and ENDSARS protest.

H₀: There is no significant relationship between Human right violation and ENDSARS protest .

Question 6: The ENDSARS protest shed light on the systemic nature of human right abuses in Delta state and Nigeria at large.

Table 10

SEX	RESPONSES			TOTAL
	AGREED	UNDECIDED	DISAGREED	
MALE	240	14	11	265
FEMALE	66	45	7	118
TOTAL	306	59	18	383

Source: Field work, 2023.

Using Chi Square (χ^2)

Chi-squared Test/Formula

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(O_i - E_i)^2}{E_i}$$

χ^2 = *Chi squared*

O_i = *Observed value*

$E_i = \text{Expected value}$

Calculation for Expected value:

$$\frac{\text{Row Total} \times \text{Column Total}}{\text{Grand Total}}$$

a) Agreed (Male) : $\frac{306 \times 265}{383} = 211.72$

b) Undecided (Male): $\frac{59 \times 265}{383} = 40.82$

c) Disagreed (Male): $\frac{18 \times 265}{383} = 12.45$

d) Agreed (Female) : $\frac{306 \times 118}{383} = 94.28$

e) Undecided (Female): $\frac{59 \times 118}{383} = 18.18$

f) Disagreed (Female): $\frac{18 \times 118}{383} = 5.55$

Contingency Table

Table 11

Sets	O_i	E_i	$O_i - E_i$	$(O_i - E_i)^2$	$\frac{(O_i - E_i)^2}{E_i}$	$\Sigma \left(\frac{(O_i - E_i)^2}{E_i} \right)$
$R_1 C_1$	240	211.72	28.28	799.7584	3.78	3.78
$R_1 C_2$	14	40.82	-26.82	719.3124	17.62	17.62
$R_1 C_3$	11	12.45	-1.45	2.1025	0.17	0.17
$R_2 C_1$	66	94.28	-28.28	799.7584	8.48	8.48
$R_2 C_2$	45	18.18	26.82	719.3124	39.57	39.57
$R_2 C_3$	7	5.55	1.45	2.1025	0.38	0.38
						70

$$\chi^2 = 70$$

$$\text{Degree of freedom} = (R - 1) (C - 1)$$

$$(2 - 1) (3 - 1) = 2$$

$$\text{Significance level} = 0.05$$

Decision Rule: if the chi-square statistic is greater than the critical value, we will reject the null hypothesis (H_o). If it is less than or equal to the critical value, we fail to reject the null hypothesis (H_o).

Conclusion: the critical value of χ^2 (5.991) is less than the calculated χ^2 (70), in essence the researcher will accept the alternate hypothesis (H_i) which states that “there is a significant relationship between human right violation and ENDSARS protest .

TEST OF HYPOTHESIS TWO (2):

H₁: There is a significant relationship between ENDSARS protest and police brutality.

H₀: There is no significant relationship between ENDSARS protest and police brutality .

Question 1: The widespread incidents of police brutality, including harassment, extortion and deliberate killings of persons by the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) is the major cause which resulted to the ENDSARS protest.

Table 12

SEX	RESPONSES			TOTAL
	AGREED	UNDECIDED	DISAGREED	
MALE	242	15	8	265
FEMALE	68	45	5	118
TOTAL	310	60	13	383

Source: Field work, 2023.

Using Chi Square (χ^2)

Chi-squared Test/Formula

$$\chi^2 = \sum \frac{(O_i - E_i)^2}{E_i}$$

$$\chi^2 = \text{Chi squared}$$

$$O_i = \text{Observed value}$$

$$E_i = \text{Expected value}$$

Calculation for Expected value:

$$\frac{\text{Row Total} \times \text{Column Total}}{\text{Grand Total}}$$

a. Agreed (Male) : $\frac{310 \times 265}{383} = 214.49$

b. Undecided (Male): $\frac{60 \times 265}{383} = 41.51$

c. Disagreed (Male): $\frac{13 \times 265}{383} = 8.99$

d. Agreed (Female) : $\frac{310 \times 118}{383} = 95.509$

e. Undecided (Female): $\frac{60 \times 118}{383} = 18.49$

f. Disagreed (Female): $\frac{13 \times 118}{383} = 4.01$

Contingency Table

Table 13

Sets	O_i	E_i	$O_i - E_i$	$(O_i - E_i)^2$	$\frac{(O_i - E_i)^2}{E_i}$	$\Sigma \left(\frac{(O_i - E_i)^2}{E_i} \right)$
$R_1 C_1$	242	214.49	27.51	756.8001	3.53	3.53
$R_1 C_2$	15	41.51	-26.51	702.7801	16.93	16.93
$R_1 C_3$	8	8.99	-0.99	0.9801	0.109	0.109
$R_2 C_1$	68	95.509	-27.51	756.8001	7.92	7.92
$R_2 C_2$	45	18.49	26.51	702.7801	38.009	38.009
$R_2 C_3$	5	4.01	0.99	0.9801	0.2444	0.2444
						66.7424

$$\chi^2 = 66.7424$$

$$\text{Degree of freedom} = (R - 1)(C - 1)$$

$$(2 - 1)(3 - 1) = 2$$

Decision Rule: if the chi-square statistic is greater than the critical value, we will reject the null hypothesis (H_o). If it is less than or equal to the critical value, we fail to reject the null hypothesis (H_o).

Conclusion: the critical value of χ^2 (5.991) is less than the calculated χ^2 (66.7424), in essence the researcher will accept the alternate hypothesis (H_i) which states that “there is a significant relationship between ENDSARS protest and police brutality in Delta state. .

4.5 DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Results in table 2-5 shows that majority of the respondents were male, were within the age range of 26-30, were unemployed and were ND/NCE holders. In research question one(1) table 6, findings showed that majority of the respondents agreed that the widespread incidents of police brutality, including harassment, extortion and deliberate killings of persons by the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) is the major cause that resulted to the ENDSARS protest. Numerous incidents of police brutality were reported, leading to public outrage and the birth of the ENDSARS movement. One notable example is the killing of a young man named Kolade Johnson in March 2019 by SARS officers. This incident, captured on video, sparked widespread condemnation and triggered calls for an end to police brutality. Another example is the case of Chibuike Anams, a young man who was allegedly killed by SARS officers in 2016. His death, along with many others, highlighted a pattern of abuse and

extrajudicial killings committed by the police. These incidents, among countless others, contributed to the growing discontent and mobilization of Nigerian youth. Majority of the respondents also agreed that officers involved in human rights abuses were rarely punished as they always find a way of dissolving the whole matter as if nothing happened and this triggered youths and also resulted to the ENDSARS protest. In addition, majority of the respondents disagreed that Rampant corruption across various sectors of the Nigerian society is not an underlying cause that led to the ENDSARS protest. It is essential to note that the ENDSARS movement encompassed broader issues such as corruption, inadequate governance, and socioeconomic inequalities. The demand for police reform serves as a critical stepping stone towards addressing these systemic challenges in Nigeria. The protests gained international attention and support, with notable figures and organizations advocating for justice and police reform in Nigeria. The outcry against police brutality and violation of Human rights extended beyond Nigeria's borders, showing solidarity with the cause.

In research question two(2) table 7, findings showed that majority of the respondents agreed that the ENDSARS protest shed light on the systemic nature of human rights abuses in Delta state and Nigeria at large. The ENDSARS protest itself was a response to long-standing human rights abuses committed by SARS. The unit was notorious for its involvement in extrajudicial killings,

torture, unlawful arrests, and extortion. These violations directly infringed upon the rights of Nigerian citizens, including the right to life, liberty, security of person, and freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment. During the protest, there were further instances of human rights abuses perpetrated by both state and non- state actors. Security forces, including the police and military, were accused of using excessive force against peaceful protesters. Reports emerged of protesters being shot, beaten, and even killed. These actions violated the protesters' right to peaceful assembly, freedom of expression, and freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment. Additionally, there were reports of attacks on protesters by non-state actors, such as armed thugs. These attacks resulted in injuries and loss of lives. Such violence infringed upon the protesters' right to life, security, and freedom from violence. Majority of the respondents also agreed that the ENDSARS protest played a role in raising awareness about human rights among the general population in Delta state. The Nigerian government's response to the ENDSARS protest also raised concerns about human rights abuses. The government imposed curfews, blocked social media platforms, and arrested protest leaders and supporters. These actions were seen as attempts to suppress the right to peaceful assembly, freedom of expression, and access to information. Furthermore, there were allegations of arbitrary detentions, torture, and ill- treatment of individuals arrested in connection with the protest. These

actions violated the rights to liberty, fair trial, and freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment. The relationship between human rights abuse and the ENDSARS protest is exemplified by individual cases. For instance, the Lekki Toll Gate incident on October 20, 2020, where peaceful protesters were reportedly shot at by security forces, demonstrates the violation of the right to life and security of person. The arrest and detention of prominent activist Omoyele Sowore, who had been vocal in exposing human rights abuses, is an example of the government's crackdown on freedom of expression. Majority of the respondents also agreed that the ENDSARS protests in Delta state and across Nigeria sought justice for victims of human rights abuses. The ENDSARS protest brought international attention to the human rights situation in Nigeria. Organizations such as Amnesty International documented and condemned the violations and also Nigerians in Diaspora, calling for accountability and justice. The protest highlighted the need for systemic reforms to address human rights abuses and ensure the protection of citizens' rights.

In research question three (3) table 8, findings showed that majority of the respondents agreed that platforms such as twitter, Instagram and Facebook to share information and mobilize supporters were utilized during the ENDSARS protest. Social media played a crucial role in organizing and mobilizing protesters. Hashtags like #EndSARS and #EndPoliceBrutality were widely used

to spread awareness and coordinate actions. Platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram were utilized to share information, rally support, and document incidents of police brutality. These online conversations united people and eventually led to nationwide protests demanding an end to police brutality and the disbandment of SARS. In addition, Peaceful demonstrations were the core strategy of the #EndSARS movement. Protesters gathered in public spaces, including major roads and government buildings, to voice their demands and raise awareness. Non-violence and peaceful resistance were emphasized to maintain the moral high ground and gain public sympathy.

In research question four (4) table 9, Majority of the respondents disagreed that the aims and objectives of the ENDSARS protest was achieved in Delta state and Nigeria at large. Firstly, as a direct outcome of the protest, the Nigerian government disbanded SARS and announced the establishment of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) unit to replace it. While disbanding SARS was a significant step, many respondents argued that the creation of SWAT was merely a rebranding exercise and did not meet the demands for genuine police reform. Consequently, some people felt that the initial objective of completely addressing police brutality was not fully achieved and this correlates with the response of majority of the respondents who disagreed that police brutality, including harassment, extortion and deliberate killings of individuals have stopped since the ENDSARS protest. The protest brought attention to the issue of police brutality in Nigeria on a global scale. The widespread use of social

media allowed protesters to share evidence of police misconduct, leading to increased awareness and international condemnation. This global attention put pressure on the Nigerian government to take action and engage in dialogue with the protesters. However, despite the attention, meaningful and comprehensive police reform has been slow to materialize. Furthermore, the protest led to the establishment of panels of inquiry in various states across Nigeria to investigate cases of police brutality and compensate victims. These panels were intended to bring justice to those affected by police misconduct. However, there have been reports of delays, inadequate funding, and limited implementation of the panel's recommendations, which has raised concerns about the effectiveness of these measures.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 SUMMARY

This study was carried out to investigate violation human rights and ENDSARS protest in Delta State. To achieve this objective, four research questions and two research hypotheses were formulated to guide the researcher. A structured questionnaire was used as the major instruments to obtained data from 400 selected respondents in Delta State. Out of this number, 383 (95.75%) copies of questionnaire were appropriately completed and returned to the researcher while 17 (4.25%) copies of the questionnaire not were completed and returned to the researcher.

The data collected from the respondents were analyzed using simple percentage and tables to analyze the research questions while Chi-square statistical tool was employed to analyzed the research hypotheses. The findings revealed that;

- a) There is relationship between human right violation and ENDSARS protest.
- b) There is a relationship between ENDSARS protest and police brutality.

5.2 CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of this study and the subsequent recommendations, it is concluded that the protests came to a head on October 20 when Nigerian security forced fired on protesters staging a sit-in on a toll road. Twelve people

were killed, adding to dozens who have died across the country during the protests. Witnesses claimed army and police officers were responsible for the unprovoked Lekki shooting. The incident was added to an inquiry established to look into the SARS abuses.

The ENDSARS movement is driven by deep discontentment and systemic problems perceived by Nigerian citizens. Surveys show that Nigerians report very low levels of trust in the police and that a third of them have paid or been asked to pay a bribe to police. Experts describe how some police forces have been commercialized to serve the interests of politicians and rich individuals rather than to protect the public. Nigeria's National Human Rights Commission reported that security forces extra-judicially killed at least 18 people while enforcing the country's COVID-19 lockdowns earlier this year. Incidents of police violence are common in the national news.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study, the researcher made the following recommendations;

1. The government needs to do more to earn the trust of Nigerian citizens. Measures should be put in place by the government to address shortcomings in the policing system, military, and governance must be seen to be sincere.
2. The Judicial Panel of Inquiry set up by some states to probe police

brutality should be inclusive of critical stakeholders and not only government nominees.

3. To end police impunity, the government needs to establish an independent body with a mandate to consistently investigate and report crimes committed by the police and other security bodies, including extortion, unlawful detentions, corruption, and brutality. These reports then need to be enforced with strict penalties for proven cases. This body should include representatives of civil society organizations.
4. The reform of Nigeria's security architecture, particularly the relationship between citizens and security agencies, is long overdue. There should be training and retraining of the security agencies on issues of citizen protection, human rights, relations with citizens, and building community trust.
5. Government need to Establish effective and independent oversight mechanisms to monitor police activities, including the establishment of a civilian-led police oversight board with disciplinary powers.
6. Government need to Strengthen democratic institutions, promote transparency, and enhance the electoral process to foster citizen participation and trust in the governance system.
7. There should be a Review and amendment of existing legislation to ensure it align with international human rights standards, particularly laws governing arrests, detention, and use of force by security forces.

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QUESTIONNAIRE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION,
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES,
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN,
BENIN CITY,
EDO STATE

Dear Respondents,

I am a final year student of the above mentioned department and institution. I am carrying out a research work on“ *The Violation of Human Rights And Endsars Protest In Delta State*” Please kindly respond sincerely to the questions by ticking [√] where applicable. Your responses which are needed for research purposes only will be treated with high level of confidentiality. Thank you

Yours

faithfully,

Ogbeiwi Anita

SECTION A (PERSONAL DATA)
SECTION A

1. Sex: (a) Male [] (b) Female []
2. Marital Status: (a) Married [] (b) Single []
3. Age: (a) 20-25yrs [] (b) 26-30yrs [] (c) 31-35yrs [] (d) 36 and above
4. Employment Status: Civil Servant [] self employed [] unemployed [] student []
5. What is the level of your academic qualification?
ND/NCE [] HND/B.SC [] MBA/M.SC [] PH.D [] others ()

Key: SA – Strongly Agreed, A – Agreed, UD – Undecided, D – Disagreed, SD- Strongly Disagreed Please tick () appropriately

SECTION B

Please kindly [] tick appropriate option of your choice the option that best applies using the keys below.

Keys: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Undecided (U), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD)

S/N	STATEMENT	SA	A	UD	D	SD
1	The wide spread incidents of police brutality, including harassment, extortion and deliberate killings of persons by the special anti-robbery squad (SARS) is the major cause which					

	resulted to the ENDSARS protest.					
2	Officers involved in human rights abuses were rarely punished and this resulted to the ENDSARS protest.					
3	The inclusiveness of youths in decision making process is an underlying cause that led to the ENDSARS protest.					
4	Rampant corruption across various sectors of the Nigerian society is not an underlying cause that led to the ENDSARS protest.					
5	The influence of social media as a platform that provides a space for individuals to share their experiences with Police brutality, fueled and resulted to the ENDSARS protest.					
6	The ENDSARS protest shed light on the systemic nature of human right abuses in Delta state and Nigeria at large.					
7	The ENDSARS protest provided a platform for victims of human right abuses to share their stories and experiences.					
8	The ENDSARS protest played a role in raising awareness about human right among the general population in Delta state.					
9	The ENDSARS protest in Delta state and across Nigeria sought justice for victims of human right abuses.					
10	The ENDSARS protest in Delta state did not empower victims of human rights abuses to speak out against their oppressors.					
11	Platforms such as twitter, instagram and facebook to share information and mobilize supporters were utilized during the ENDSARS protest					
12	Hashtags like # ENDSARS and # End Police Brutality was used as a strategy during the ENDSARS protest to amplify the message and create a viral movement.					
13	Recording instances of police brutality, sharing videos, testimonies and other evidence to raise awareness and garner support was a major strategy used during the ENDSARS					

	protest.					
14	Holding meetings, dialogue sessions and negotiations with government representatives was not a strategy used during the ENDSARS protest.					
15	Organizing large scale protest and rallies to raise awareness and demand change was a major strategy utilized during the ENDSARS protest.					
16	Public trust in law enforcement agencies have increased since the ENDSARS protest.					
17	Police brutality, including harassment, extortion and deliberate killings of individuals have stopped since the ENDSARS protest.					
18	The aims and objectives of the ENDSARS protest was achieved in Delta state.					
19	Since the ENDSARS protest, there have been transparency in government operations particularly in budgeting and public service delivery.					
20	The ENDSARS protest was a proof that the Nigerian government respect the human right of its citizens.					