



# Observation

On The Conduct Of Law Enforcement Personnel During The Nationwide

**#endbadgovernance**  
**Protests In Nigeria**

**T**he #EndBadGovernance movement in Nigeria has emerged as a response to the deep-seated economic hardships, high cost of governance, lopsided resource distribution, and governance-related challenges that have beleaguered the nation for decades. This grassroots movement, predominantly driven by the youth, has gained significant traction through social media platforms, voicing widespread dissatisfaction with the country's persistent economic struggles and systemic failures. The #EndBadGovernance protests in Nigeria have been a significant movement calling for accountability, transparency, and improvements in governance.

Nigeria, despite its vast natural resources, has struggled with economic instability characterized by widespread corruption, high unemployment rates, inflation, and a widening gap between the rich and the poor. The economic policies of successive governments have failed to translate into tangible improvements for the average Nigerian, leading to widespread poverty and disillusionment. Youth unemployment, in particular, remains alarmingly high, with many young Nigerians unable to find meaningful employment despite their educational qualifications.

The #EndBadGovernance protests in Nigeria highlight the urgent need to address the economic hardships, leadership and governance-related challenges that have hindered the country's development. This movement represents angry Nigerians who have suffered tremendously from governance failures have called for comprehensive reforms to create a more equitable, transparent, and accountable governance system that can deliver economic stability and improve the quality of life for all Nigerians. This report documents CLEEN Foundation observations on the first day of the protests.

**T**he primary purpose of this report is to monitor, evaluate and present in real time key observations emerging from the conduct and activities of Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) and personnel deployed to oversee the #EndBadGovernance protests in Nigeria. This report aims to provide a comprehensive assessment of how security and law enforcement officers have managed the protests, focusing on their adherence to legal standards, respect for human rights, and effectiveness in preventing the breakdown of law and order across the country. By documenting and analyzing the actions of law enforcement officers, this report seeks to identify best practices, highlight areas for improvement, and offer recommendations to enhance the capacity, performance and effectiveness of law enforcement personnel in handling peaceful demonstrations and protests in Nigeria. Ultimately, this report strives to ensure accountability, transparency, protection and promotion of citizens' rights during times of civil unrest.

**T**he methodology for this report involves a systematic and structured triangulation approach to monitoring the conduct and activities of Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) during the #EndBadGovernance protests across Nigeria. The following steps outline the key components of the methodology:

**1. Deployment of Trained Observers:**

CLEEN Foundation deployed a network of trained observers to all the states across the country. A total of 109 observers were deployed across the 36 states and the federal capital Territory.

**2. Development of Monitoring Tool:**

CLEEN developed a Standard Law Enforcement Monitoring Tool integrated into an electronic version to collect real time data from the field. This tool was designed to capture quality data on the conduct and actions of law enforcement personnel during the protests.

**3. Data Collection Process:**

Observers utilized the monitoring tool to provide regular updates on the conduct of LEAs. The tool allowed for the recording of various indicators, including the use of force, adherence to human rights standards, engagement with protesters, and any incidents of misconduct or abuse of rights observed. Secondary data tracked by the CLEEN Foundation National Protest Situation Room were reviewed, verified and triangulated to ensure credibility before including in the report.

**4. Observer Composition:**

The observers included a diverse group of professionals and members of the Civil Society community from across the country. Their backgrounds ensured a comprehensive and unbiased perspective on the events as they

unfolded.

**5. Data Transmission and Analysis:**

Observers submitted their reports in real time, ensuring timely and accurate data submission and collection. The data was compiled, analyzed, and reviewed by a team of experts to identify trends, patterns, and areas of concern.

**6. Verification and Validation:**

To ensure the reliability and validity of the collected data, cross-referencing with other sources such as media reports, eyewitness accounts, and official statements was conducted. This triangulation method helped to confirm

## 1. Spread of the Protest

To ensure comprehensive monitoring and coverage of the #EndBadGovernance protests, CLEEN Foundation strategically deployed observers across all the states in Nigeria. The data from the CLEEN Foundation National Protest Monitoring Situation Room indicates that the protests were held across 28 states and Abuja. These comprised of 10 out of 17 Southern states, 18 out of 19 Northern states and Abuja. The only few states where the protests did not hold on the first day of the protest include: Kogi in the north Central, Ekiti and Ondo state in the South West and Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu, Imo states all in South-East Nigeria.

## 2. Presence of Law Enforcement Personnel

Observers deployed by CLEEN Foundation in all the states of the federation reported that Security and Law Enforcement Agencies were seen on streets in the various states across the country. 91% of the reports received confirmed that law enforcement personnel were seen on the streets of major cities across the country to provide security and maintain law and order across the country. CLEEN Foundation also monitored the time LEP got to their deployed stations. Reports received from observers suggest that most personnel were at their duty station as early as 7:30am even before protesters were seen on the streets.

## 3. Description of Protesters

Observers reported that some of the states monitored that there were two different groups of protesters – Pro-government protesters and protesters demanding for better governance. Pro-government protesters were observed in two states while End Bad Governance protesters were observed in 29 states and Abuja. Furthermore, analysis of age of the protesters showed that juveniles and adults were involved in the Nation Wide Protest in Nigeria.

#### 4. **Policing the Nationwide Protests**

The Security and Law Enforcement personnel were deployed at the various strategic locations in the 36 states and Abuja with several policing equipments such as guns with live bullets, tear gas, water tank, tyres etc.. Data from the field indicates that most of the locations for the protests were peaceful across the states however, violence and killings marred the protests in Niger, Kano, Kaduna, Taraba and Abuja.

#### 5. **Road Blocks**

The reports of protesters blockade of major roads for long hours were received by CLEEN Foundation National Protest Monitoring Situation Room. The blockade created tension resulting to violence between the protesters and law enforcement officials that cleared the blockade. It caused serious traffic and delay to travellers on the road. Specifically, Abuja to Kaduna express way was blocked for almost nine hours keeping commuters stranded. Similar blockade was recorded in Niger state as Suleja to madalla road was blocked forcing road users to trek long distances.

#### 6. **Looting and Vandalism**

Looting of goods and vandalization of properties were reported in different states such as Kano, Edo, and Borno states. Protesters broke into a building and looted away government rice stored in the building in Edo state. In Kano. Protesters vandalized government building and carted away the equipment in the building.

#### 7. **Killing of protesters and security personnel**

The CLEEN Foundation National Protest Monitoring Situation Room observed a total of nine alleged deaths comprising of 6 protesters killed in Suleja, Niger state, one protester killed in Maiduguri, Borno state and two persons killed in Kaduna state, one protester and one law enforcement

personnel. Further violence observed included shootings to disperse the protesters, burning of tyres along the road, looting and vandalization of properties and tear gas against the protesters

## 8. **Curfews**

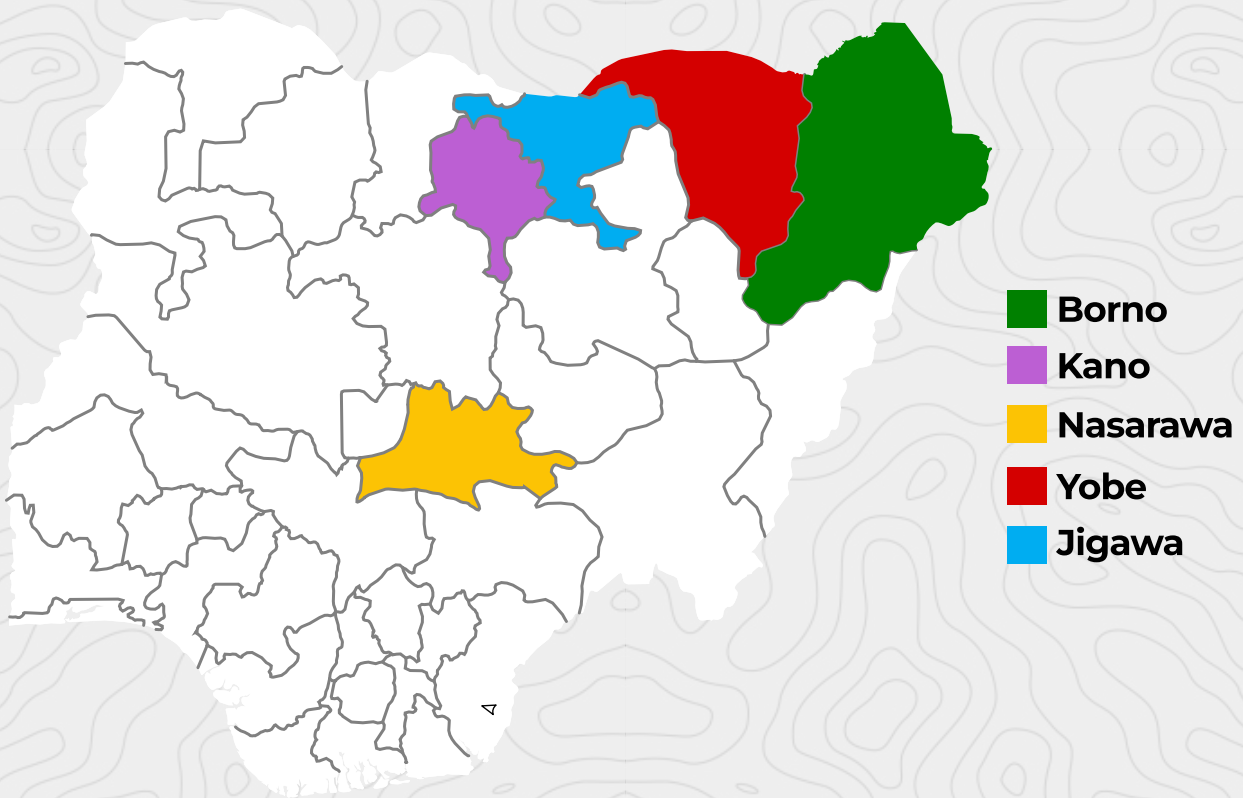
Four state governments out of 30 state states where the protest held has declared curfew as a measure of curtailing the negative effect of the protests after the protesters turned violent to loot and vandalize properties. At the end of day one of the protests on the 1st of August, 2024, Kano, Taraba, Borno and Niger states respectively has declared curfew in response to the violent protests recorded in the states.



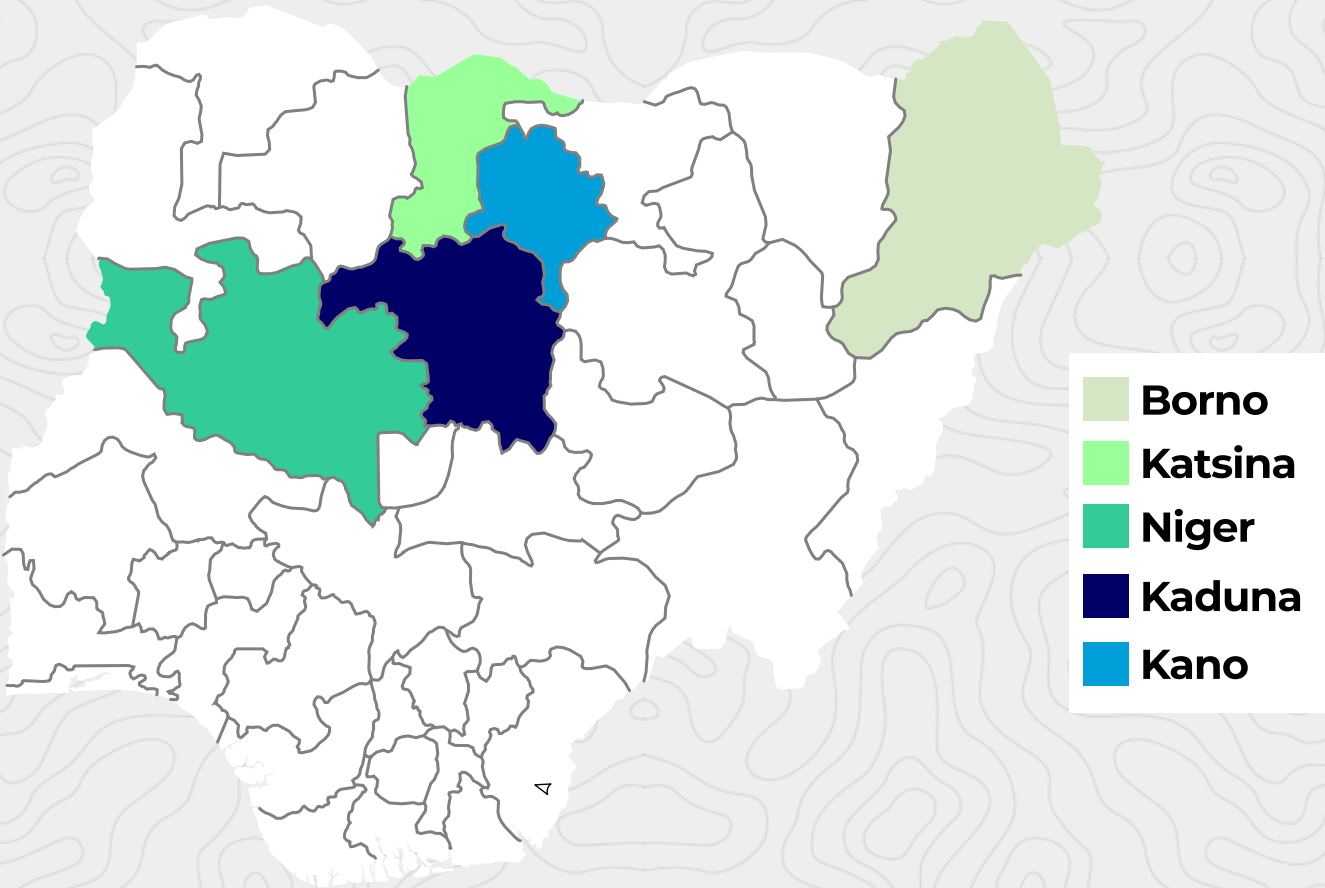
**CLEEN Foundation** makes the following recommendations in view of the above observations:

1. The President should as a matter of urgency dialogue with the youth to address the concerns that led to the nationwide protest. Efforts should be made to meet their demands.
2. Security and Law Enforcement agencies led by the Inspector General of Police should ensure that personnel deployed as first responders to the nationwide protests are equipped with modern policing equipments for their personal safety and security and that of the protesters while discharging their constitutional duties. Force application must be commensurate with the threats. All allegations of misconduct by LEAs or against them should be investigated and perpetrators' brought to book.
3. CLEEN Foundation wishes to reiterate her call to protesters to remain peaceful and avoid taking laws into their hands STOP the use of juveniles as a shield.
4. Hospitals should ensure that protesters who have sustained injuries during the period are well taken care of, lives of victims of gun shots should be saved first before demanding for police reports.
5. Civil society organizations and other stakeholders should continue to monitor the process protests closely, document and disseminate their observations.

## ***CURFEW DECLARED BY STATE***



## STATES WITH FATALITIES





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