

## #END BAD GOVERNANCE NATIONWIDE PROTEST IN NIGERIA. 1 AUGUST, 2024.

### BACKGROUND



The on-going nationwide demonstrations are a response to the economic crisis facing Nigeria, country's economy characterized by rising inflations, leading to increased price of food, medical, fuel, housing, and high cost of living. This has negatively affected livelihoods of population across the country.

The skyrocketing commodity prices are as a result of a number of factors, including the removal of fuel subsidy, currency devaluation and others external dynamic.

On August 1, 2024, several peaceful demonstration were conducted across Nigeria on food inflation and economic hardship in Kaduna, Adamawa, Sokoto, Plateau, Oyo, Edo, Katsina, Bauchi, Kano, Abuja, Niger, Nasarawa, Jigawa, Yobe, Delta, Bayelsa, Gombe, Cross River, Borno and Lagos State.

Amidst the protest, WANEP NEWS recorded a total of twenty-one (21) people including a Police officer were allegedly killed with over 20 people injured and 247 suspects arrested across the states in Nigeria.

On July 29, 2024, President Bola Tinubu led administration officially enacted the new national minimum wage bill into law. This legislative action is part of the government's broader strategy to alleviate economic hardship and address public concerns amid persistent food inflation and financial challenges, aiming to meet the needs of the Nigerian populace.

### INCIDENT PROFILE

On August 1, 2024, six (6) people were reportedly killed and several others injured during a peaceful protest while the security operatives struggled to disperse protesters with teargas attempting to block the Abuja-Kaduna highway over bad governance and economic hardship in Suleja of Niger State.

Also, it was reported that, four (4) people including a police officer were allegedly killed and the office of the Kaduna Investment Promotion Agency (KADIPA) vandalized, while the suspected hoodlums allegedly hijacked the end bad governance protest at Doka, Tudun Nupawa Area in Kaduna North LGA of Kaduna State.

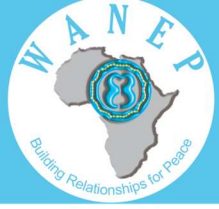
Three (3) people were reportedly shot dead by the operatives of the State Police Command following the breach of the Kano State Government House in Kano Municipal LGA of Kano State by suspected hoodlums who hijacked the #end-bad governance protest over food inflation and unfavorable government policies.

Two (2) people were also reportedly shot and injured by security operatives and about 4 vehicles burnt during the #end bad governance demonstration along the Abuja-Keffi Road in Mararaba Area in Karu LGA of Nasarawa State.

Moreover, two (2) people were allegedly killed and several others injured in an alleged attempt by police operatives to disrupt a protest over bad governance and food inflation by community youths in 10 LGAs across the Jigawa State.

Additionally, four (4) persons were also killed in Maiduguri, Borno State after suspected Boko Haram members infiltrated the supposed peaceful protest with Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in the State.

Preliminary investigations have revealed that during the push to end bad governance, food inflation and economic hardship, hundreds of Nigerian protesters also expressed concerns over the widespread of insecurity especially in the northern parts of the country arising from armed robbery, vandalism, kidnapping, and Banditry and insurgency operations across Nigeria. However, the protest has resulted to violent in some states which has led to killing, injuring, burning government critical infrastructure, looting food items and destruction of several properties in the affected states.



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## ANALYSIS:

The nationwide protests against bad governance and economic hardship in Nigeria have escalated, resulting in significant violence. Government's responses to the economic hardships facing populations have not been able to alleviate the effects rising cost of living on livelihoods of populations. The civil demonstrations reflect rising tensions, widespread discontent, and a deteriorating social contract between the state and its citizens, posing potential risks to national stability. However, the government's response marked by crackdowns on peaceful protesters and the use of force undermines core democratic principles, such as freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly. These fundamental rights are essential to democracy, enabling citizens to hold leaders accountable for their actions.

The protests have had profound social and economic effects, exposing deep-seated issues within the country. The associated violence and unrest have heightened public safety concerns, caused substantial property damage and disrupted educational and economic activities, particularly in areas where major roads and commercial centres have been obstructed and damaged. For instance, the blockade of the Abuja-Kaduna highway in Suleja and the burning of vehicles along the Abuja-Keffi Highway in Nasarawa State have hindered trade and transportation, adversely affecting local businesses.

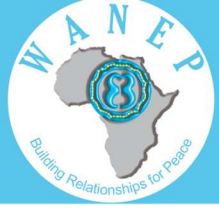
Despite the proactive efforts of the Federal Government, various civic organizations, state governors from diverse political parties, opinion leaders and traditional rulers to mitigate and de-escalate the unrest, the protests have continued and in some cases, have escalated into violence across different states. They erode trust in institutions, challenge fundamental democratic rights, attract international criticism, and impair the rule of law. Addressing these violations and ensuring respect for human rights are crucial for upholding democratic principles and fostering a stable and just society.

The reactions to these protests are not uniform across the country. In the northern regions, many leaders have expressed support for the protests, viewing them as a manifestation of deep-rooted national dissatisfaction and a call for essential reforms. They see the protests as a legitimate form of public dissent against systemic issues plaguing the nation.

In contrast, in the Niger Delta region, youth groups have been more sceptical. They have raised questions about the motives behind the protests, suggesting that the demonstrations may not fully address the specific grievances of their region or might be influenced by other factors. This regional disparity underscores the complex and multi-dimensional nature of the protests, revealing a range of perspectives on their validity and aims across Nigeria.

The widespread agitation calling for an end to bad governance, food inflation and economic hardship has raised concerns among some Nigerian populace that the protests may not provide a lasting solution to these issues. Instead, there is apprehension that the unrest could create opportunities for criminal elements to exploit the situation. Nevertheless, many groups have pledged their support for the on-going economic reforms and palliatives initiated across the 36 states by the Federal Government.

The protests have created significant public anxiety, particularly in states such as Kano, Jigawa, Niger, Nasarawa, Borno and Yobe States where incidents of violence and the detonation of IEDs infiltrated by suspected Boko Haram terrorists, and criminal activities



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perpetrated by groups of hoodlums who attempted to hijack the protests with properties and critical infrastructure destroyed in the states. The government should work towards alleviating the current unrest, addressing the root causes of the protests and restoring stability and trust in the country.

## **MECHANISMS FOR INTERVENTIONS:**

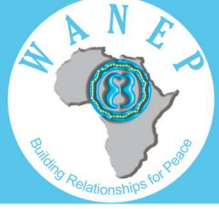
- On August 1, 2024, the states of Borno, Yobe, Nasarawa, Kano, Katsina, and Jigawa imposed curfews as part of security measures to prevent further breakdown of peace and security in the states.
- To address the effects of food inflation and economic hardship, the Federal Government has distributed 740 bags of rice across all 36 states, including the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), targeting the most vulnerable members of society.
- On July 29, 2024, the administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu officially signed the new national minimum wage bill into law, as part of its efforts to alleviate economic difficulties faced by Nigerians.
- The Inspector General of Police (IGP) has placed all units on red alert to avert further break down of law and order.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- The Federal government should take proactive steps to de-escalate tensions and address the underlying issues. Initiating dialogue with protest organizers and providing assurances to address their concerns.
- The Federal/State Governments should enhance security and public safety by deploying additional personnel to protect critical infrastructure, ensure public safety, and prevent the hijacking of protests by criminal elements.
- The Federal/State Governments, with the support of local authorities, should initiate and promote measures to improve governance, increase transparency and enhance the responsiveness of government institutions to citizen needs.
- The Federal/State governments should collaborate with traditional rulers and community leaders to foster community engagement initiatives aimed at building trust and understanding between citizens and government institutions.

## **REFERENCES:**

Source : WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS) : [www.wanep.org/news/](http://www.wanep.org/news/) <https://dailypost.ng/2024/08/02/19-killed-several-injured-as-hoodlums-hijack-protests-in-nigeria/><https://dailypost.ng/2024/08/01/two-killed-many-injured-as-protesters-set-apc-secretariat-ablaze-in-jigawa/><https://dailypost.ng/2024/08/01/august-1-protest-several-protesters-reportedly-shot-dead-in-niger/><https://www.vanguardngr.com/2024/07/tinubu-palliative-anxiety-as-740-trucks-of-rice-fail-to-arrive-most-states/><https://www.vanguardngr.com/2024/07/hardship-fg-distributes-740-trucks-of-rice-across-nigeria/><https://dailypost.ng/2024/08/01/endbadgovernance-protesters-storm-buharis-residence-in-daura-video/><https://dailypost.ng/2024/08/01/august-1-protest-several-protesters-reportedly-shot-dead-in-niger/><https://dailypost.ng/2024/08/01/protest-military-takes-over-fct-highway-as-hoodlums-unleash-violence-on-motorists/><https://www.arise.tv/nigerias-planned-protest-sparks-divide-as-northern-elders-support-niger-delta-opts-out/>



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