

## REVIEW OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE BY THE NIGERIAN POLICE\*

### Abstract

*The primary function of the police is to enforce law and order in the society for the protection of human rights. It is unfortunate that these people who are meant to be the watchdogs of the society have now turned into its most ruthless predators. There are ample reported cases (and much more unreported) cases of police brutality and violations of human rights in Nigeria. This has resulted in the masses losing trust in the police system as a government agency. The objective of this article is to review the consequences of human rights abuse by the Nigerian police. The paper adopted a doctrinal research method through the use of primary source (such as statutes and regulations) as well as secondary source (such as books, academic journals, newspaper publications, television documentaries, Internet materials, etc.). The causes of human rights abuse by the Nigerian police include systemic corruption; inadequate welfare package for police officers; lack of training and re-training; etc. In order to prevent the recurrent incidences of human rights abuse by the Nigerian police the paper recommend for a police reform through subjecting prospective members of the Nigeria Police Force to mental health evaluation, compulsory training on policing standards for police officers on a regular basis is also recommended; paycheck of the police officers should be raised to be at par with current economic realities and there should be incentives to police officers who are of the optimum professional behaviour at the end of a given period. These recommendations among others will enhance in the optimal performance and professionalism of Nigerian police.*

**Keywords: Human Rights, Abuse, Consequences, Police, Nigeria.**

### 1. Introduction

Thomas Hobbes' idea of the social contract eloquently captures the essence of the Police, which dates back to a time when the people gave up their rights to a powerful entity known as the Leviathan in return for protection.<sup>1</sup> Governments around the world have a responsibility to safeguard the lives and property of their residents and to make sure that everyone abides by the laws and directives.<sup>2</sup> Governments at all levels establish various security units to do these tasks, and the Police department is one of these groups. Its duties include investigating, apprehending, and prosecuting criminals in any appropriate legal forum in order to uphold social order.<sup>3</sup> The police force's responsibilities in Nigeria are the same as those found elsewhere in the world. However, there are notable differences in the approaches taken when it comes to public relations, police ethics, human rights, and legal compliance.<sup>4</sup>

Nigeria Police Force began operating at the regional level in 1820, prior to independence. In 1879, the Hausa Paramilitary was founded, and the Lagos Police was created by 1896. The Nigeria Coast Protectorate included Calabar by 1894, when the Niger Coast Constabulary was established. These local law enforcement agencies combined to establish the First National Police in 1930.<sup>5</sup> The Nigeria Police

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<sup>1</sup> CW Morris, *The Social Contract Theorists: Critical Essays on Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2000) 29.

<sup>2</sup> World Bank Publications, *Making Politics Work for Development: Harnessing Transparency and Citizen Engagement* (World Bank, 2016) 13.

<sup>3</sup> DH Bayley, *Patterns of Policing: A Comparative International Analysis* (Rutgers University Press, 1990) 5.

<sup>4</sup> SG Ehindero, *The Nigeria Police and Human Rights* (Ehindero Nig Ltd, 1998) 4.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid..

Force is currently centralized. Human rights breaches by the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) police force, whose mission is to investigate, arrest, and prosecute crimes related to robbery, have been reported on multiple occasions since the unit was established in 1992.<sup>6</sup> Amnesty International<sup>7</sup> reported that on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2020, in the Lagos State neighborhoods of Alausa and Lekki, the Nigerian Army and Police shot and killed at least 12 peaceful protesters and injured numerous others. Human rights violations by SARS include alleged unlawful arrests, regular torture of its detainees, coercive tactics to force detainees (their victims) to give them money or property before being released, and occasionally the death of those who did not comply with their demands. The Nigerian Police have also been accused of mistreating the majority of these suspects, subjecting them to unlawful torture and coerced confessions instead of charging them to court.<sup>8</sup> Despite their crimes, no SARS agents have faced legal action since 2017, which is astounding given the volume of torture evidence that is currently available.<sup>9</sup>

Prior to 2020, there had been demands for the Nigerian government to restructure the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), particularly the SARS (Special Anti-Robbery Squad), which is the force's anti-robbery arm.<sup>10</sup> In response, the administration pledged a number of improvements in 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019.<sup>11</sup> Segun Awonsanya started the social media campaign against SARS on Twitter in December 2017.<sup>12</sup> Due to these calls, Yemi Osinbajo who was Acting President of Nigeria at the time, ordered the Inspector General of Police to restructure SARS, rename it the Federal Special Anti-Robbery Squad (F-SARS), and look into complaints made against SARS officers.<sup>13</sup> As an aftermath of the protest and the enquiry, the F-SARS was decentralized on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019.<sup>14</sup>

Practically speaking, the main modification brought about by the regulation would be the change in the designation from SARS to F-SARS.<sup>15</sup> Little was done to compensate victims whose human rights were violated by SARS; no SARS official was prosecuted or sent to jail for these crimes.<sup>16</sup> The Nigeria Police Force (NPF) dismantled SARS on 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2020, after a period of severe statewide protests that garnered international significance. Aside from the SARS problem, the Nigeria Police has a history of violating the rights of its residents, including rape, forced disappearances, extrajudicial killings of

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<sup>6</sup> S Malumfashi, 'Nigeria's SARS: A brief history of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad' (22 October 2020) <<https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2020/10/22/sars-a-brief-history-of-a-rogue-unit>> accessed 17 April 2022.

<sup>7</sup> Amnesty International, 'Police Violence' <<https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/police-brutality/>> accessed 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

<sup>8</sup> JC Onwunoyirimadu, 'Police Brutality and Violation of Human Rights in Nigeria – Causes and Implications' [2022] *Global Journal of Politics and Law Research* (10) (2) 14.

<sup>9</sup> U Kadioglu, 'Police Brutality in Nigeria and the #EndSARS Movement' <<https://www.google.com/amp/s/hir.harvard.edu/police-brutality-in-nigeriaand-the-endsars-movement/amp>> accessed 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

<sup>10</sup> A Salaudeen, 'Nigerians want police's SARS force scrapped' (15 December 2017) <<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/12/15/nigerians-want-polices-sars-force-scrapped/>> accessed 9 March 2024.

<sup>11</sup> Amnesty International, 'Nigeria: SARS overhaul is positive step but reforms must be robust' (14 August 2018) <<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/08/nigeria-sars-overhaul-is-positive-step-but-reforms-must-be-robust/>> accessed 9 May 2024.

<sup>12</sup> B Adebayo, 'How a social media movement against police brutality prompted Nigerian government to act' (20 August 2018) <<https://edition.cnn.com/2018/08/20/africa/nigeria-police-brutality-report/index.html>> accessed 10 April 2024.

<sup>13</sup> Sahara Reporters. 'After Osinbajo's Order, Police Rename SARS 'Federal Special Anti-Robbery Squad' (FSARS)' <<https://saharareporters.com/2018/08/14/after-osinbajos-order-police-rename-sars-federal-special-anti-robbery-squad-fsars>> accessed 18 April 2024.

<sup>14</sup> Reuters, 'Nigeria's acting president orders overhaul of controversial police unit' <<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-nigeria-police-idUSKBN1KZ217/>> accessed 18 April 2024.

<sup>15</sup> O Olaigbe, 'Nigerian Police Brutality Continues Even After #EndSARS' (20 October 2022) <<https://inkstickmedia.com/nigerian-police-brutality-continues-even-after-endsars/>> accessed 19 April 2024.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

suspects, invasions of privacy, torture, and blackmailing of suspects.<sup>17</sup> Even if the government was able to eradicate SARS, the Nigerian Police is no longer widely trusted by the populace.<sup>18</sup>

## 2. Police Abuse of Human Rights in Nigeria

Across the globe, instances of police brutality in various forms have been reported in both industrialized and developing nations.<sup>19</sup> However, it is concerning and disconcerting how frequently stories about Nigerian Police violating people's rights are published. Amnesty International<sup>20</sup> claims that since 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2020, Nigerian security forces have relentlessly suppressed nonviolent #EndSARS# demonstrators, subjecting them to live ammunition firing, beatings, and apprehensions. Tear gas was used by Nigerian police to disperse protesters. Mr. Okoye Agu, a Nigerian victim of police violence, told the story of how, in 2014, he was assaulted, humiliated in public as a criminal, suspended upside down, and had two of his teeth out.<sup>21</sup> Officers from the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) also auctioned his car and cellphones without getting his consent.<sup>22</sup>

CNN reported that on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2019, Mr. Kolade Johnson was shot and killed by Nigerian police during a raid in Lagos on that fateful Sunday. The Nigerian Anti-Cultism Police Unit was responsible for the shooting.<sup>23</sup> On 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2021, a Police Inspector attacked a residential estate in Enugu State and opened fire on the occupants without warning. Five civilians died in the incident, while four more individuals were critically hurt. This was another instance of the Nigeria Police violating human rights. The attack's motive is still unknown.<sup>24</sup> Whatever the reason behind the alleged inspector's killing and injuries of defenseless bystanders, it is a flagrant violation of their right to life.

According to a report by Human Rights Watch,<sup>25</sup> the Nigerian Police killed over 785 individuals between June and September of 2007. However, it is possible that over 10,000 people were killed by the police between 2000 and 2007. The fact that top police officers appear to take joy in routinely killing of Nigerian citizens whether or not they are criminal suspects is beyond disgraceful. Human Rights Watch added that there are two main ways in which the Nigerian Police's extortion, embezzlement, and other corrupt activities violate Nigerians' fundamental human rights.<sup>26</sup> First off, the numerous violations of human rights that police personnel do while trying to extract money are the direct cause of police

<sup>17</sup> O Ojo, 'Two years after #EndSARS, police brutality persists in Nigeria' (4 March 2023) <<https://www.thecable.ng/two-years-after-endsars-protest-police-brutality-persists-in-nigeria/>> accessed 8 April 2024.

<sup>18</sup> Amnesty International, 'Nigeria: No justice for victims of police brutality one year after #EndSARS Protests' (20 October 2021) <<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/10/nigeria-no-justice-for-victims-of-police-brutality-one-year-after-endsars-protests/>> accessed 10 May 2024.

<sup>19</sup> AW Westley, 'Violence and the Police' [1953] 59(1) *American Journal of Sociology*, 23.

<sup>20</sup> Amnesty International, 'Demand Justice for the Violent Repression of #EndSARS protesters' <https://www.amnesty.org/en/getinvolved/take-action/nigeria-end-impunity-for-police-brutality-end-sars/BBC> accessed 6 January 2024.

<sup>21</sup> BBC, 'Nigeria Police Brutality Inquiry Hears Graphic Testimony' <<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.bbc.com/news/worldafrica-54706977.ampbbc.com>> accessed 1 February 2024.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> B Adebayo, 'The fatal shooting of a Nigerian man brings more demands to shut down a controversial police unit' (2 April 2019) <<https://edition.cnn.com/2019/04/02/africa/nigeria-police-shooting-outrage-intl/index.html#:~:text=Kolade%20Johnson%20was%20shot%20by,family%20and%20lawyer%20told%20CNN.>> accessed 11 August 2024.

<sup>24</sup> Kadioglu (n 9).

<sup>25</sup> Human Rights Watch, 'Nigeria Investigate Widespread Killing by Police' <<https://www.hrw.org/news/2007/II/18/nigeria-investigatwidespread-killings-by-police>> accessed 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

corruption's most noticeable impact on common people.<sup>27</sup> These mistreatments include threats and violent acts, such as physical and sexual assault, torture, and even extrajudicial killings, in addition to arbitrary arrests and illegal detentions. Second, at significant police roadblocks, the Nigerian Police have been charged with extorting money from the general public, particularly drivers. Although the intention of erecting those police checkpoints is to deter crime, the police frequently use these checkpoints as a means of obtaining money from passing motorists.<sup>28</sup>

Nigerian police violence cases are really concerning. According to a Human Rights Watch report conducted in 2007, the Nigerian Police detained and publicly displayed 12 armed robbery suspects in Umuahia, Abia State, in August 2006. Subsequently, the 12 suspects were discovered amidst a group of 16 deceased individuals placed at a nearby mortuary.<sup>29</sup> All sixteen of the suspects, according to the police, were armed robbers who had engaged in a gunfight with the authorities. Thus far, no inquiry has been conducted. The public's confidence in the Nigeria Police Force has been undermined by its egregious human rights violations. Because they are afraid of becoming victims of the police, many Nigerians withhold critical secret information from the authorities. Regaining the public's trust in law enforcement will be facilitated by upholding fundamental human rights.<sup>30</sup>

The United States Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labour highlighted serious human rights violations in Nigeria in the 2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.<sup>31</sup> These violations included severe and potentially fatal prison conditions; arbitrary and unlawful killings by both state and non-state forces; forced disappearances of suspects; torture; and instances of cruel, arbitrary detention by the government; issues with the independence of the judiciary resulting in unlawful interference with people's privacy; severe limitations on the freedom of expression, the internet, and the press; major violations in an internal conflict, including the torturing and killing of civilians; the presence of criminal label laws; and a major hindrance to the rights of peaceful assembly and freedom of association; significant limitations on religious freedom, a lackluster investigation and punishment for crimes against women, major corruption and human trafficking incidents, and more.<sup>32</sup> The number of cases of police abuse and human rights violations continues to rise every day, despite the Federal and State Governments having established multiple human rights panels in response to these incidents. There has been no discernible improvement in the number of human rights abuses committed by Nigerian police when the SARS designation was changed to F-SARS and then to SWAT.<sup>33</sup>

### **3. Instances of Violation of Human Rights by the Nigerian Police**

In Nigeria, there have been documented instances of police violence. Among them is the instance of Mr. Kolade Johnson, who, according to CNN, died during a police raid in Lagos.<sup>34</sup> Human Rights Watch

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<sup>27</sup> K. Roth, 'World Report 2022: Nigeria' <<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/nigeria>> accessed 18 April 2024.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> Human Rights Watch, 'Nigeria: Investigate Widespread Killings by the Police' (n 23).

<sup>30</sup> LS Miller and M. C. Braswell, *Effective Police Supervision Study Guide* (Elsevier Science, 2014) 38.

<sup>31</sup> US Department of State (Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labour), '2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Nigeria' <<https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/nigeria/>> accessed 10 May 2024.

<sup>32</sup> Amnesty International, 'Police Violence' (n 7).

<sup>33</sup> C Nwanze, 'Nigeria Police: The need for comprehensive reforms' (6 August 2023) <<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/opinion/614690-nigeria-police-the-need-for-comprehensive-reforms-by-cheta-nwanze.html?tztc=1>> accessed 20 April 2024.

<sup>34</sup> CNN, 'The fatal shooting of a Nigerian man brings more demands to shutdown a controversial police unit' <<https://www.google.com/amp/s/amp.cnn.com/cnn/2019/04/02/africa/nigeriapolice-shooting-outrage-intl/index.html>> accessed 12 January 2024.

stated in 2007 that the bodies of suspected armed robbers who were paraded by the Abia State Police Command were discovered without a judicial conviction or trial. A British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) inquiry revealed that a man named Mr. Okoye Agu said that in 2014, he was assaulted and publicly paraded as a criminal, had his teeth extracted, and had his car and phone seized before being auctioned by the Special Anti-Robbery Squad.<sup>35</sup>

The #EndSARS protest in October 2020 in Lekki, Lagos State, is one of the most notorious instances of police brutality in Nigeria. Several international organizations, including CNN, BBC, Amnesty International, and Human Rights Watch, accused the Nigerian security agencies of shooting the protesters without cause or justification. Nine of the 48 casualties were certified dead by a nine-member commission that was formed by the Lagos State Government in November 2021 to look into the alleged death of peaceful #EndSARS protesting youths on 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2020. However, the panel's report has been criticized by the Nigerian government, via its Minister of Culture and Information, Lai Mohammed, for being riddled with mistakes.<sup>36</sup> This result corroborated the report by Global Glow<sup>37</sup> that there have been instances of sexual assault, injuries, and fatalities among victims; these incidents are frequently the consequence of errant shots and maybe misidentifications.

#### 4. Reasons for the Violation of Human Rights by the Nigerian Police

In most cases, the police officers on duty are not to be blamed for the crackdown they had on demonstrators. Political leaders often order the use of tear gas against any demonstration they perceive as posing a danger to their authority or positions.<sup>38</sup> The #EndSARS demonstration began peacefully, as one may remember, but then some supposed hired goons broke into the demonstration, attacking real protesters and inflicting numerous injuries in the process. Political leaders that issue directives like 'shoot at sight' might be the source of police abuse.<sup>39</sup> Erroneous hiring practices lead to police abuse. Before interacting with recruits, police officers rarely conduct mental health exams, and these reports are frequently not fully disclosed to verify the accuracy of the information.<sup>40</sup> Additionally, junior officers make up the majority of Nigerian police officers; their behaviour makes this clear. Their educational backgrounds typically consist of only a high school diploma.<sup>41</sup>

Another element that encourages police violence is the incapacity of the Nigerian government and police commission to prosecute members of the Nigeria Police Force who violate people's rights. Erring officers will be discouraged from committing similar crimes by strong prosecution or punishment. Police violence victims have expressed dissatisfaction over these dishonest cops' brazen threats to 'waste you and nothing will happen.'<sup>42</sup> Some of these dishonest officers work with impunity because of this mentality. In addition, inadequate police welfare and compensation directly contribute to human

<sup>35</sup> BBC, 'Nigeria Police Brutality Inquiry Hears Graphic Testimony' (n 21).

<sup>36</sup> N Princewill, 'Nigerian government rejects report on Lekki toll gate shooting as 'fake news'' (24 November 2021) <<https://edition.cnn.com/2021/11/24/africa/nigeria-rejects-endsars-report-intl/index.html>> accessed 19 April 2024.

<sup>37</sup> Global Glow, 'Police brutality in Nigeria: An unending Nightmare' <<https://globalgirlsglow.org/police-brutality-in-nigeria-anunending-nightmare/>> accessed 10 January 2024.

<sup>38</sup> Human Rights Watch, 'Corruption Fuelling Police Abuses' (17 August 2010) <<https://www.hrw.org/news/2010/08/17/nigeria-corruption-fueling-police-abuses>> accessed 18 April 2024.

<sup>39</sup> Daily Nigerian, 'My 'shoot at sight' order intact – Buhari' (10 June 2021) <https://dailynigerian.com/shoot-sight-order-intact/> accessed 23 April 2024.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> FO Agbefe, F. Ikenga and O. Atare, 'The Impact and Challenges of the Nigeria Police Force in the Maintenance of Internal Security in Nigeria' [2023] *Journal of Research in Humanities and Social Science* (11) (2) 30-31.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

rights violations by the police, including extortion and the theft of suspects' property.<sup>43</sup> Particularly the junior officers, and the Nigeria Police Force personnel receive inadequate pay. It follows that people search for additional ways to supplement their income in order to cover their everyday expenses. Even though it is wrong to commit crimes for such motives, these factors need to be taken into account while figuring out what exactly causes police brutality in Nigeria.<sup>44</sup> Many a time, industrious and hardworking police officers go unappreciated, unrewarded, or even un-promoted when their time comes.<sup>45</sup> An officer could become discouraged and stop doing his duties in a professional manner in this instance.

Inadequate policies and programmes for retraining and educating police officers on international best practices in policing can also be connected to police brutality.<sup>46</sup> The aforementioned conclusions about the reasons behind police brutality in Nigeria support a 2023 analysis by Amnesty International that found that one of the reasons behind police brutality is the insufficient welfare benefits provided to Nigerian police officers.<sup>47</sup>

### **5. Consequences of Police Human Rights Abuse in Nigeria**

Numerous people have died as a result of police brutality, and victims have also suffered from rape, exploitation, torture, and other cruel treatment.<sup>48</sup> Additionally, the violent behaviour of some police officers has harmed relations between the police and the public. Victims of police brutality have lost faith in the Nigeria Police Force and are reluctant to provide crucial intelligence that could aid in the fight against crime out of concern that they will become victims again.<sup>49</sup> People's fundamental right to peacefully demonstrate against unfavorable government policies has been violated because of the aggressive behaviour of some police officers during these events, which has made the masses afraid to participate in peaceful protests against the policies.<sup>50</sup>

Reports have surfaced of police crackdowns on protesters against #EndSARS#, the Islamic Movement of Nigeria, and the now outlawed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), among other groups.<sup>51</sup> There are many medical consequences for demonstrators who are attacked with tear gas and other weapons. The Nigerian Police's reputation has suffered in the eyes of the world community as a result of their violations of human rights. For example, the US government has repeatedly declined to supply weapons to Nigeria, citing violations of human rights committed by security forces whose job it is to safeguard the lives and property of the people, not to use weapons against them.<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>43</sup> PW Naankiel and FEF Ayokhai, 'National Security, Human Rights Violations and Police Reforms in Nigeria's Fourth Republic' [2016] *Nigeria Police Academy Journal of Humanities* (1) (1) 12-13.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> Amnesty International, 'Nigeria: Three years after #EndSARS at least 15 protesters languish in Lagos jail' (20 October 2023) <<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/10/nigeria-three-years-after-endsars-at-least-15-protesters-languish-in-lagos-jail/#:~:text=Despite%20consistent%20claims%20of%20carrying,almost%20absolute%20impunity%2C%20said%20Amnesty>> accessed 19 April 2024.

<sup>48</sup> R Aborisade and J. Fayemi, 'Police Corruption in Nigeria: A Perspective on its Nature and Control' [2015] *Nigerian Journal of Social Sciences* (17)(2) 245-262.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

<sup>51</sup> Onwunyirimadu (n 8) 15.

<sup>52</sup> D Oladipo and M. Stone, 'Proposed U.S. arms sale to Nigeria on 'hold' over human rights concerns -sources' (30 July 2021) <<https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/proposed-us-arms-sale-nigeria-hold-over-human-rights-concerns-sources-2021-07-29/>> accessed 18 April 2024.

Furthermore, when compared to the best international norms for policing and respect for human rights, the Nigerian police have consistently been rated as among the worst police forces.<sup>53</sup> Some police officers behave with impunity because they believe that nothing will happen to them, as the adage goes. After all, the Nigerian Police Commission is unable to sufficiently punish members of the force who violate the rights of the suspect. This result is consistent with Global Glow's view that, as long as incidents like this continue, police brutality has created an unquenchable sense of mistrust.<sup>54</sup> The main characteristics of the relationships between Nigerians and the police include hostility, violence, brutality, and suspicion.

## 6. Conclusion and Recommendations

The paper comes to the conclusion that human rights violations and police brutality have consequences in Nigeria based on the aforementioned considerations. It was found that instances of police brutality have resulted in many fatalities, suspect torture, rape, blackmail, and extortion, among other things. In addition to eroding public confidence in law enforcement, the police's violations of human rights have damaged Nigeria's reputation abroad. The investigation also showed that no significant sanctions had been imposed by the authorities, despite several complaints and pieces of evidence being presented against specific officers. Most of the time, victims of police violence receive inadequate compensation.

Zeroing from the above, the following recommendations are made for the government, non-governmental organizations, and the general public to stop future instances of police brutality and human rights violations in Nigeria, after a detailed investigation and analysis of the cases, causes, and consequences of these crimes in Nigeria:

- a. The Nigeria Police Force has to undergo a comprehensive revamp rather than just a name and uniform change, as has been the case in the past. These improvements must be put into practice, not merely on paper.
- b. The Nigerian police should periodically subject their officers to mental health exams to see whether they are mentally capable of handling live ammunition.
- c. More university graduates should be hired for the Nigeria Police Force, as opposed to the current practice of having ordinary-level graduates dominate the force; the educational expulsion of these officers is a significant factor.
- d. Strict investigations and sanctions against negligent officers by the Nigerian Police Commission will discourage other officers from making the same mistakes.
- e. Officers who carry out their responsibilities in a professional manner ought to be commended, honored, and generously compensated. This will encourage other police officers to emulate those renowned officers' virtues.
- f. Well-paid and promoted police officers in Nigeria will help them meet their daily necessities and resist the temptation to take part in illicit activities.
- g. In the police force, promotions and appointments ought to be made only based on merit.
- h. There should be an increase in the budget and proper use of the funds for police force training and retraining

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<sup>53</sup> Vanguard, 'Our Police World Ranking' (13 February 2020) <[https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/02/our-police-world-ranking/#google\\_vignette](https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/02/our-police-world-ranking/#google_vignette)> accessed 18 March 2024.

<sup>54</sup> Global Glow (n 36).