

Implications of EndSARS Protest on National Security and Development

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Abstract: The EndSARS protest, which was sparked by public outcry against police brutality, had a significant impact on Nigeria's national security and development. The protest primarily called for the dissolution of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), a unit notorious for its human rights abuses. Underlying issues such as poor governance, rampant corruption, and the Federal Government's failure to reform the Nigerian police system were key factors leading to the massive demonstrations in 2020. Citizens were frustrated with the systemic negligence and lack of accountability, which prompted them to demand justice and police reforms. This paper adopts a descriptive approach to analyze the situation and highlights the importance of the government taking proactive measures to address security issues. The protesters' grievances reflect a broader societal need for transparency, accountability, and fairness in governance. Therefore, it is crucial for the Federal Government to listen to the voice of the people and implement reforms that ensure the protection of citizens' rights and improve police conduct. By addressing these concerns, the government can help prevent the recurrence of such protests, which may escalate into more dangerous and widespread movements in the future. The paper argues that if the underlying factors are left unchecked, future protests could have far more severe consequences for national stability and development. Thus, the government must act decisively to reform the system and restore public trust.

Keywords: Brutality, EndSARS, Government Negligence, National Security, Protest.



1. Introduction

Security challenge has become the order of the day. One can observe that brutality and corruption have crept into the management, administration, operational and execution of security agencies and services in Nigeria, leading to EndSARS protest. These undermine growth, development and national security. The protest as a social movement calls on federal government to disband Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) which is no longer favourable to Nigerians. Midenda clearly stated that SARS have deviated from the original concept [1]. The recent activities of the agency have deviated from its original formation. This has led Nigeria Youths within the period of the protest to call for restructuring of national security especially Nigerian Police Force (NPF). Different delegates from six geopolitical zones had discussion with met with President Muhammadu Buhari to resolve the causes of the EndSARS protest and its violent aftermath [2]. SARS has recorded series of abuses such as the human rights abuse, extortion, harassment, extra-judicial killings, abduction, unlawful arrest, illegal detention and excessive use of force. These acts have led many Nigerians to protest on 8th October, 2020 even across the country and globally. Globally, protests were held in different parts of the world like Accra, Frankfurt, London, Toronto, and Washington DC. They cooperated with those in Nigeria. Lekki Toll Gate in Lagos Nigeria was chosen to be a meeting point of the protest. Millions of Nigerians protested with tags titled EndSARS, EndCorruption, EndBadGovernance and EndInsecurity, one may say that the protest is beyond reformation of security sector.

The Nigerian Police which supposed to be the friend of the people has become a danger, appeared to be dreaded and feared by the people [3]. Maryam Ahmed, one of the protesters lamented that the view that Nigerian police motto has become a mockery [4]. Despite the fact that Nigerian police were not originally created for service of the people but for the service of those in power to enable them carryout their exploitation and expropriation of resources [5]. Nigerian citizens have lost trust on police in area of security, particularly Special Anti-Robbery Squad, for such to be retained, there is need to restructure and strengthen the confidence between the people and the police officers. The power vested on them by the federal government is abused. Amnesty International reported that people in SARS custody experienced different forms of torture: hanging, beating, mock execution, punching and kicking, burning with cigarettes, waterboarding, near-asphyxiation with plastic bags, forcing detainees to assume stressful bodily positions and sexual violence [3] [6]. Notwithstanding, EndSARS protests held in October 4, 2020 started on social media showing a SARS police officer reportedly shot a young Nigerian man in front of the Wetland Hotel in Ughelli, Delta State [7]. The protest that began in 2020 was so remarkably that the country marked one year anniversary in the year 2021. The protest had nothing to do with ethnicity, religion, xenophobia, and cultural background. The government and its agencies failed to understand that power belongs to the people as far as democracy system of government is understood in the 21st century. The people could achieve anything they wish once united. The protest saw the unity among Nigerians, people from difference background standing on a common cause. The government's action to stop the protesters through the use of heavy firearms undermine democracy and fundamental human right which are right to life, freedom of expression, and freedom of movement. The protest witnessed arson on police stations, court houses, television stations, destruction of roads and other public infrastructures in Lagos and other parts of the country.

The negligence of the government to keep their promise of disbanding the unit is alarming. Isa Sanusi, media director at Amnesty International in Nigeria, lamented that all the misconduct of SARS have been documented for so many years, advice have been given on how to improve and make their operation smooth, more people-friendly, more human rights-friendly, but they've refused, they didn't change [1]. Nigeria's Vice President, Yemi Osinbajo, has apologized to Nigerians and also admitted and faulted the Federal Government for not moving faster in addressing the demands of Nigerians calling for a total ban of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad [8]. Efforts of the government to reform police as noted by Iwuoha and Aniche [6], in 2006 and 2008, presidential committees proposed recommendations for reforming the Nigeria Police. In 2009, the Nigerian minister of justice and attorney general of the federation convened a National Committee on Torture to examine allegations of torture and unlawful killings but made little headway. In October 2010, the then Nigerian President, Goodluck Jonathan, allocated 71 billion naira (\$196m) for police reforms. In 2016, the inspector general of the Nigerian Police Force announced broad reforms to correct SARS units' use of excessive force and failure to follow due process. Despite these efforts made by the Federal Government, no positive and impactful results seen, the paper call on the federal to act urgently, reform and restructure the security service. This is to similar protests from escalating in future. The

problem with contemporary day national security can actually be traced back to British colonial rule. The paper identified the words of Moses Ochonu, a professor of history at Vanderbilt University, “Policing in contemporary Nigeria is indeed rooted in a colonial policing philosophy that aims to dominate space, intimidate communities, and mete out exemplary punishments to serve as deterrents” [1]. This is a deviation from what national security ought to be. It is not enough to end SARS in Nigeria, there is need to conduct proper investigation on policing, check and balance in the three arms of government since colonial police is used in the operation against Nigerians rather than protection in order to ensure favourable and friendly environment for the citizens and foreign investors, good governance, accountability and justice. There is need for government to release arrested protesters, handle victims of police brutality with justice, rendering appropriate punishment to officers who are victim of brutality and police force welfare and hospitality well taken care of to reduce corruption.

2. Literature Review

2.1. EndSARS

The word is a combination of two words, ‘end’, and ‘SARS’. End is synonyms to close, conclude, finish, complete, terminate, final, culminate, wind-up. It means to bring or come to a stopping point or limit [9]. It also conveys a strong sense of finality where something ceases to exist. It is a final part of something like a period of time, an activity, or a story while Special Anti-Robbery (SARS) is the principal law enforcement agency in Nigerian Police Force. SARS as a controversial Nigerian police unit that has been the target of nationwide protests demanding an end to police brutality [10]. It was created in 1992 by a Police Officer named Simeon Danladi Midenda who was in charge of the anti-robbery unit of the criminal investigation department in Benin, southern Nigeria, but was transferred to Lagos due to increase in criminal acts. Its creation was to fight all forms of violent crimes, such as armed robbery, investigation, kidnapping, banditry, etc. Its formation, anti-robbery was the responsibility of the Nigerian Police Force from 1984, anti-robbery units existed separately as part of different states’ criminal investigation departments [11]. SARS is under the control and command of the Inspector General of Police in accordance with Section 215(2) of the 1999 Constitution, and Section 6 of the Police Act, 1990. EndSARS is a protest against ruling elite that has exploited and appropriated the collective patrimony to itself [12]. EndSARS is the act of disbanding, terminating the activities of SARS. It could also mean putting an end to the existence of SARS. It is also the act of putting off the negative side of SARS. The EndSARS movement is the biggest social protest the country has seen since the occupy Nigeria movement of January 2012.

2.2. Development

The term is complex, contested, ambiguous and elusive. Todaro and Mabogunje’s view of development [13]. For Todaro, it is not purely an economic phenomenon but rather a multi-dimensional process involving reorganization and reorientation of entire economic and social system. It is also a process of improving the quality of all human lives with three equally important aspects. These are raising peoples’ living levels, i.e. incomes, and consumption, levels of food, medical services, education through relevant growth processes; creating conditions conducive to the growth of peoples’ self-esteem through the establishment of social, political and economic systems and institutions which promote human dignity and respect; increasing peoples’ freedom to choose by enlarging the range of their choice variables, e.g. varieties of goods and services. For Mabogunje, he sees development as economic growth- too often commodity output as opposed to people is emphasized-measures of growth in GNP. However, development can be defined as bringing about social change that allows people to achieve their human potentials. It encompasses ‘change’ in a variety of aspects of the human condition. Development is seen as modernization which emphasizes process of social change, improvement and advancement in economy, education, social relationship, psychological, religious and political. It involves advancement in behavior, and values towards profit oriented meeting the needs of the people by the government and different social classes.

2.3. National Security

National security is a wider concept which means different things to different people. Modern concepts of national security arose in the 17th century during the Thirty Years War in Europe and the Civil War in England. The concept are not limited to military commitment but also involves other several non-military commitment such as collective security, political security, global security, economic security, energy security, environmental security, food security, and cyber-security. For

national security is the ability of a country’s government to protect its citizens, economy, and other institutions [14]. The words of Charles Maier; national security is a “capacity to control those domestic and foreign conditions that the public opinion of a given community believes necessary to enjoy its own self-determination or autonomy, prosperity, and wellbeing” [15]. It involves their safety, their security, and their freedoms [16]. For the interest of this paper, national security is an aspect of government which involves the preservation of nation’s integrity, and security of a sovereign state from foreign attack and protections of life and property. It is the protection and defense of the sovereignty of the government, the economic system, energy resources from unlawful internal and external threats or harmful interference, terrorism, extremism, criminality, kidnapping etc. This is for the prosperity of the nation, its people and promotion of favorable environment for living and business purposes.

2.4. Cases of SARS Brutality and the Factors Responsible for EndSARS Protest

Between January 2017 and May 2020, more than 82 cases of abuse, torture and extrajudicial killings by officers of SARS. In 2016, Amnesty International documented 143 complaints made against SARS officers in less than six months [17]. People complained of beating, harassment, execution, forceful detention, sexual violence and waterboarding etc. These are the evidences of bad government and corruption in the society which has become factors that lead to EndSARS protest. Some 29 protesters were reportedly killed by the Nigerian Army and the Nigerian Police Force during the protest between 10th and 21st October 2020 [6]. Cases of police brutality as noted by [1] [3] [4] [7] [11] and [17].

Table 1. Some Examples of Police Brutality in Nigeria

DATE	NAMES	DESCRIPTIONS	SARS ACTIONS
May 2020	Abdullah Abdulsalam	A 23-years old passenger, was singled out by SARS, on his way home from a writing workshop in Oyo State, Nigeria	Checked his social media, found no criminal act, accused him of being a cybercriminal, threat him to death, drove him to an ATM nearby, where the officers subsequently drained his bank account
November 2, 2019	Faith Moyosore	A 24-year-old poet, was on her way home from the Lagos International Poetry Festival when her Uber driver was asked to pull over by SARS officers	Searched the car and her phone. She was accused of prostitution
April 2019	Oluwaseyi Akinade	A 23 years old, died by suicide after leaving a note that detailed his extortion and torture at the hands of SARS	Extortion and torture
2015	Afam Nriezedi	Arrested by SARS in Lagos, Nigeria. Over three years later, in October 2018, a judge on the Federal High Court of Nigeria found SARS guilty of detaining Nriezedi without an arraignment or court trial, and awarded 20 million naira, or \$52,000, in damages, and one million naira, or around \$2,500, for illegal detention. The judge, according to court ruled in favour of Nriezedi but he has yet to be released.	He was first accused of stealing four AK47 rifles. Later accused of kidnapping.
March 2017	Miracle	A 23-year-old was arrested and detained by SARS officers in Neni, Anambra State, southeast Nigeria	Accused of the theft of a laptop. Tortured and given hardly any food during the 40 days he was in detention before he was charged and brought before a court.

DATE	NAMES	DESCRIPTIONS	SARS ACTIONS
October 2018	Sunday Bang	24-year-old, an amateur boxer was arrested in his home in Abuja, by SARS officers	Accused of robbery. Forceful detention for 5 weeks without access to family, lawyers or medical care – and was not charged in court. While in detention, suffered bone fractures and other injuries due to torture and other ill treatment
April 2019	Kofi Bartels	A 34-year-old radio journalist in Nigeria’s Rivers State, filming three police officers from the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) beating another man at least six officers, one at a time	Torture and beaten.
2018	Philomena Celestine	25 years old travelling home from her university graduation ceremony with her family in Edo State, when their car was pulled over by SARS officers and her two brothers taken out into the bush while their four-year-old niece was in the vehicle trembling and in great fear	Harassed for over 30 minutes, and accused them of being cybercriminals. They could see her graduation gown but that did not deter them
-	Buhari,	22 years old, interrogated, and a gun was pointed at his face	Checked his phone, invaded his privacy and demanded for money, threaten to death if refused after showing him some body bags. He was released when he withdrew 50,000 naira, or \$130, from an ATM nearby
-	Chidi Oluchi	32 years old, was arrested in Enugu	Robbed of his belongings and then tortured in SARS custody
October 4, 2020	A young Man	SARS police officer reportedly shot him in front of the Wetland Hotel in Ughelli, Delta State	Killed
October 11, 2020	Jimoh Isiaq	A 20-year-old university student. He was shot dead on, during an EndSARS protest in Oyo State, southwestern Nigeria	Police tear gassed and used water cannon on a group of protesters
Oct 12, 2020	Ikechukwu Ilohamauzo	A 55-year-old was killed and some protesters arrested	Arrested and killed
-	Gimba Kakanda	Police officers attacked journalist, injuring him, smashing his phone and slashing the tires of his car.	Tortured

2.5. Tortured

These were SARS inhumanity to human. Police brutality is “the common tool used to maintain a variety of systems of inequality and oppression in different societies. And it is a tool that gets turned systematically on the most vulnerable members of society” [18]. Iwuoha and Aniche wrote therefore, police brutality is a reflection of the systemic problems and challenges of the entire Nigerian state. It was the last one that fueled and motivated Nigerian youths to march down the street to protest. Ogbunnaya 2020 asserted that “the demands have grown and now include a call to end insecurity and corruption, revival of the educational and health systems, reduction in the cost of governance, and creation of jobs and income generating opportunities for the youth”. The agitation of the people calls for constitutional and security reform in order to ensure good governance. These accounts increase the tempo of many protesters against the unit across Nigeria. It has been accused of harassing and physically abusing thousands of civilians.

The protesters gave conditions to Nigerian government as to end the protest on 11th October 2020. Some of the conditions from the protests were the immediate release of all arrested protesters; Justice

for all those who died through police brutality and appropriate compensation to their families; an independent body to investigate and prosecute all reports or complaints of police brutality within ten days; independent psychological evaluation and retraining of disbanded SARS officers before they can be redeployed; Adequate increase in the salaries of officers of the NPF as appropriate incentives for carrying out their constitutional duties of protecting lives and properties [18]. Inability of the government to take immediate action towards the need to address bad leadership in the nation fueled the activities of the protesters more. Nothing has been done since August 14, 2018 when then Acting President Yemi Osinbajo ordered the Inspector General of Police to shut down SARS as reports of police brutality continued to emerge with regularity from across the country [3]. And also to put an end to police brutality which has contributed to the loss of lives and property. The hashtags bear “end to bad governance”, “corruption and insecurity” which have affected the growth and development of the nation. EndSARS became a tool used by Nigeria youths to call the attention of the Nigerian leaders and world to good leadership. It becomes a gateway towards achieving democratic governance and good leadership in the country.

3. Methodology

The research employs a descriptive methodology. This technique includes gathering, examining, and displaying data in a manner that precisely depicts the phenomenon being studied, specifically the #EndSARS movement protesting against police brutality in Nigeria.

The descriptive method illuminates the main reasons behind the protest, including government corruption, negligence, and the lack of reform in the Nigerian police force. Furthermore, the paper utilizes this strategy to urge the government to take preemptive action to avoid future protests. The descriptive approach offers a thorough comprehension of the matter by examining the protest's influence on national security and development while concentrating on the present situation.

4. Finding and Discussion

The disconnection of the CCTV and streetlights few hours before the shooting shows that it was well planned, rehearsed and meditated [19]. The attitude of Nigerian Security and government towards the protest: use of tear gas, water cannons, live bullets on the citizens; recruitment and sponsorship of political thugs and hoodlums; imposition of curfews by various state; fining of Channels Television, AIT, and Arise TV 3 million Naira (nearly \$8,000) each by the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) over their ‘unprofessional’ coverage of the protests [6]. The protest turned to violence, massive looting of palliative warehouses, arson, wanton destructions of public and private properties like police stations, The Inspector General of Police in Nigeria notes that civilians attacked over 20 police stations and 50 police officers during the protest [20].

The youth fearlessly demands for good governance. The protest portrayed their determination and courage, despite threats of state repression to save the nation from corrupt people and leadership. Evidence is seen in the manner they occupied and used social media and digital technologies to mobilize and organize protests across the country. Some noted musicians and prominent Nigerians like “singer Trey Songz (real name Tremaine Aldon Neverson), former professional footballer Rio Ferdinand and "Star Wars" actor John Boyega [21] even joined in the protest calling for justice in the country. However resourceful young medical practitioners, lawyers, freelance media startups and food vendors are offering free services to the protesters and injured ones [22]. Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, ordered the release of arrested protesters and promised to pay N200 million as compensation to the families of victims of police brutality. This was followed by a written statement by Vice President Yemi Osinbajo, in which he apologized to Nigerians, admitting state failure to protect the citizens. He tweeted on Friday night and apologized to Nigerians for inability of the government to ban SARS. He tweeted the following people’s anger and their feelings of frustration were justified; acknowledging the fact that many people have been brutalized by the police and such actions are unacceptable; it was the responsibility of the government to protect young people, even from those who were paid to protect them; nationwide protests goes beyond agitations about SARS, adding that the government has undertaken comprehensive measures that will revamp the police by addressing issues of welfare, service conditions, and training [22]. The protesters expressed the inability of the government to keep their promises in the past for instance between 2017 and 2019, the government promised to disband SARS but nothing positive seem to happen. One can actual said that the inability of the government to keep their promises is one of the characteristics of Nigerian governance since 1999.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) reported that within the first 14 days of the lockdown, which began on March 29, 2020, SARS operatives were responsible for the extra-judicial killing of 18 young Nigerians in Abia, Delta, Kaduna, Katsina, and Niger states, with “105 complaints of incidents of human rights violations perpetuated in 24 of Nigeria’s 36 states and Abuja” [23]. Following the President Buhari’s broadcast to grant the demand of the protesters, the Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Mohammed Adamu, on Sunday October 11, 2020, disbanded SARS. In a statement, the IGP declared, “I assure the nation of our firm determination to advance our police reform agenda, with a view to bequeathing to our beloved nation, a police institution and system that are not only accountable to the citizens, but professional in all components of its service delivery” [24]. Despite the declaration, protests continued in Lagos, Abuja and Kwara on Monday, demanding for total reformation of police force.

According to Ogbonnaya, the president granted the five-point demands of the protesters, namely: Immediate release of all arrested protesters; Justice for all deceased victims of police brutality and appropriate compensations for their families; Setting up an independent body to oversee the investigation and prosecution of all reports of police misconduct within 10 days; In line with the new Police Act, psychological evaluation and retraining (to be confirmed by an independent body) of all disbanded SARS officers before they can be redeployed; and Increase police salary so that they are adequately compensated for protection of life and property. The immediate response by the Inspector General of Police (IGP) to ban SARS and other special police units from patrolling and mounting roadblocks [25]. The Nigerian government eventually responded by setting up the Presidential Panel on Police Reforms which approved the five demands with some measures like disbandment of SARS, psychological and medical examination, introduction of Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team, encouraging other levels of government to set up judicial panels of inquiry for public hearings, and improving the general welfare and funding of NPF, etc. Different meetings were held to find out the causes and the way forward to ensure the unity of the country. The wrote that northern meetings held condemned the EndSARS protests and recommended regulation of the social media [2].

According to President Muhammadu Buhari, the disbandment of SARS is only the first step in our commitment to extensive police reform and all those responsible for misconduct are brought to justice [21] [26]. Despite the commendations and observations given from different meetings held in different geopolitical zones, there is need to address the major issues especially police brutality and insecurity in the country. The expression of the protesters shows the need for better leadership. During the protest, some people used that opportunity to steal people’s property and goods. Such act is punishable by law of the land. Some were victim of gun shots and properties worth of millions were damaged. Aside from the negative effect of the protest, it also shows the social movement which involves people from different ethnic groups and religions coming together to protest. This is a sign of unity in diversity and diversity with one purpose, if well harnessed; it will go a long in unifying many Nigerians which will ensure development and progress of the country.

4.1. Implications on Development and National Security

There are series of insecurity in the nation like activities of Boko Haram insurgency, Fulani herdsmen, banditry, secessionist agitations, militancy and kidnapping leading to deaths and the displacement of many. The outcome of the EndSARS protest shows there are negation of civic responsibilities and freedom, political reform, democracy, rule of law, and constitutionalism. This exposes, jeopardizes and fights against national security thereby disrupting the peace and people’s wellbeing, frightens foreign investors, dwindles economic opportunities, worsens hardship and poverty among citizens. This gives space for emergence of armed groups and breakdown of law and order, state of anarchy, looting and criminality. It interrogates people’s trust on Government in terms of protection and defense. Many Nigerian youths ignored COVID-19 protocol and public health consequences.

4.2. Reform of National Security, Particularly Police

The Nigeria Police was establishment in 1820 but it was in 1930 that the northern and southern police forces merged into the first national police force called the Nigeria Police Force. The Force needed to be restructured for safety, progress and development of the nation. Disbanding or reformation of the SARS was not new, notwithstanding, the government has promised to do so but their negligence to act on the demand of the citizens who complained of terrorizing resulted to protest. It is not only SARS that needed to be reformed but entire Nigeria Police Force (NPF). According to Amnesty International, the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) is responsible for hundreds of extrajudicial executions,

other unlawful killings and enforced disappearances each year [11]. The major reforms going on in the Police Force should urgently be addressed and implemented to serve the country better and strengthening of trust between the people and the police. Some states in the federation have adopted community policing which is an added advantage towards solving insecurity challenge. The Nigerian Police Force lacks the modern means of executing their assignment.

4.3. Reorientation to Conform to International Standard, and Enculturation on Religious Values/Education

The observed that “the Force has been working with critical stakeholders in the criminal justice system in the country and other local and international NGOs to train and retrain Police personnel to conform to International best practices [3]. Despite these efforts, there is need for active and responsive implementation of principles of international police reform on the side of operation, care and custody of detainees, intelligence gathering, human management and execution of their task. Inclusion of religious education is very necessary for progress and prosperity of the nation. Such actions must have regard for fundamental human rights which is enshrined in the nation’s constitution. Retraining of the SARS is very necessary to ensure that the act of brutality, killing, harassment etc do not take place again. Mr Anthony Makolo, Director of the Makolo Anthony Empowerment Foundation, (MAEF), called for the training of police officers on the latest version of technological gathering of information, including analysis, investigation, arrest and prosecution of suspects [24]. The Department of Training responsible for planning, coordinating, training, retraining of officers should put emphasis on religious education, studying its values and application to strengthen trust between the people and police. Akinbo added that officers should be trained on how to engage with citizens to minimize the brutality they inflict on people [21]. Every Special Anti Robbery Squad ought to pass through religious education in order to cultivate these religious values such as transparency, accountability, honesty, love, diligence to work and integrity. These values are part and parcel of the law and should be encouraged and embraced. Punishment should be meted out and implemented on the offenders of the law. Favoritism in security service should be discouraged because it has crippled its administration.

4.4. Civic Freedom and Violation of Human Right

Fundamental human right states freedom of movement and expression. The actions of the security forces on the protesters shows no regard for international human rights laws and standards. The protest pictures breaking down of law and order in the system of governance which is undemocratic. Nigerian youths demonstrated their feelings across the nation which ended up with more brutality from security forces. Police brutality has been an abuse of power driven by corrupt governance. This is unlike in London, Canada, Germany and United State of American where diaspora Nigerians protested without harassment from the security forces. Osai Ojigho, director of Amnesty International Nigeria, has decried the use of excessive force against peaceful protesters and said that it makes claims of any commitment to ending violations of human rights by the Nigerian police redundant [5]. The protests are the result of pent up frustrations following years of human rights violations, extortion, torture, brutality, and extra-judicial killings by SARS operatives and the police in general [12]. National Human Rights Commission says it received ‘105 complaints of rights violations by security forces’ in 24 states [23]. The police and armed men attack protesters with tear gas, water cannon with the motive of disorganizing their peaceful movement. “Police use water cannons against protesters in Nigeria [21].” The people’s right to life, liberty, freedom of movement, freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of self-dignity, freedom to good wellbeing, etc. were all cut short by the Nigerian state’s repressive actions during the protests [27]. This indicates the level of state intolerance against fundamental human right. Police brutality against the citizens has apparently taken over as the key driver of shrinking civic space in Nigeria [28]. Beyond Nigeria, the records of police brutality and peaceful protesters have gone across Africa showing that Nigeria is a lawless nation that has no regard for civic freedoms. Amnesty International has documented series of violation of human right by SARS.

4.5. Encouragement of Democracy

The protest offers platform for genuine and effective governance in Nigeria. The government tried to stop the protest neglecting the principles and features of democratic state. The protest was a peaceful movement but applications and strategies used by the government to stop the protesters led to

destruction of lives and properties. The inability of government to see the protests as a way to call their activities to order, forgotten that the power lies on the people. Protest helps to encourage and strengthen democracy. Government ought to see EndSARS protests as way to bring the desired change and responsive state. However, it does indicate negative of law and order. It is not to divide the nation but an eye opener to government to sit up to their responsibilities, implication of leadership qualities and efficient governance.

4.6. Heavy Traffic Protest on Social Media and Discouragement of Foreign Investors

Social media is a tool used by the opponent of the current government to attack their activities. The protest went viral in social media creating room for hate speech between the governments and governed. The protesters used the social media platforms such as facebook and twitter to call the attention of the government to end bad governance, corruption and insecurity which have contributed to under development of the nation and insecurity. Many Nigerians air out their grievances against the state and its poor democratic governance. This is to improve democracy and good governance. This poor democratic atmosphere generally creates a difficult environment for business and foreign investment in Nigeria.

4.7. Lack of Trust from the Citizens to Government

The citizens have lost trust and interest in the system of governance. The people see the government as unaccountable and unfaithful institution that failed to keep its promises made to the governed. Bad leadership becomes the motivator of today's system of governance. Nigeria ranks among the top seven countries with the highest level of citizen distrust of government institutions [29]. The cordial relationship that exist between the people and the state collapsed as a result of bad leadership, poor governance, corruption, lack of accountability and brutality. However, the citizens see the government as those who could not keep their promises. That this isn't the first time Nigerians have protested against the SARS unit and government promised to reform the unit [1]. Different protests held regarding police brutality have made the government to say it would disband the SARS unit but unfortunately nothing has been done about. The inability of those in the affairs of leadership to be accountable results to un-development that is unfavorable to the citizens and security personnel. How can Nigerians trust national security when those who are perpetrators of brutality are not brought to brook. The Nigerian authorities have not be able to prosecute a single officer from the notorious Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), despite their anti-torture legislation passed in 2017 [17]. A situation where officers that are found guilty of brutality used bribery to settle their unjust cases, such is corruption in the highest level. The police chiefs in charge are themselves entwined in the corruption [3]. The protest has affected the public trust people had on national leadership and democracy.

5. Conclusion

The national security has been challenged leading to series of abuses by police officers and protest by the citizens. The paper calls for accountable, transparent and responsible national security not limited to SARS but to all security personnel to discharge its statutory functions in line with laws and regulations guiding the nation. This could be achieved through adherence of rules and values of international police reforms, confirm standard of discipline and reward system, building trust and confidence in the citizenry. These will not disregard brutality but strengthen democracy, development and friendly national security.

The paper tends to put forward the following recommendations which will ensure better living, development and effective national security and also to avoid future occurrence of the protest. The government and governed ought to do the following things:

- 1) The security service ought to be accountability to the Federal Government.
- 2) All those who are guilty of criminal laws during the Endsars protest should be punished.
- 3) The government should act proactively to the plight of its citizens.
- 4) Complains of people should be taken note of and resolved.
- 5) Nigerians should be held accountable of their actions and inaction.
- 6) There is need for government to give maximum support to the challenges of insecurity in the country like youth unemployment, and other forms of criminal acts
- 7) Controlling the excesses of law enforcement agencies should be taken seriously.
- 8) The entire National security needs to be decentralized.

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