

EDITOR'S NOTE

The second edition of the Tap Electoral & Human Rights Monitor highlights developments reported between 11 and 14 August 2026 that have implications for electoral participation, human rights and democratic governance in Nigeria. This edition pays particular attention to insecurity, political tensions and developments surrounding the Osun State governorship election, while also examining incidents whose broader effects may shape citizens' ability to participate safely and freely in the electoral process.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The reporting period was marked by security concerns, political tensions and developments with implications for citizens' ability to participate safely and freely in the electoral process. Reported incidents included disruption of flight operations in Lagos and Abuja, a violent cult clash in Rivers State, the reported kidnapping of an Anambra businessman, and the deaths of police officers and civilians in Kebbi State. Ahead of the Osun governorship election, concerns were also raised over alleged inflammatory political remarks, reported election-related violence and the role of non-state security actors. The period further featured contentious religious-political rhetoric and a judicial development in Bauchi emphasising impartiality and independence. Collectively, these developments demonstrates that electoral participation depends not only on what happens at polling units, but also on the wider security, political, institutional and human-rights environment.

TOP ELECTORAL & HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS

1



Flight Operations Disrupted as Aviation Unions Picket Airlines over Unpaid Charges

Flight operations were reportedly disrupted at major Nigerian airports after three aviation unions picketed domestic airlines over unpaid charges owed to aviation agencies. Entrances to departure terminals at Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Lagos, and Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja, were reportedly barricaded, leaving passengers stranded or unable to access scheduled flights. [Read More →](#)

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. Restrictions on freedom of movement can have consequences for political participation where citizens depend on air travel to return to their places of origin or travel to locations where they intend to vote. Disruptions to transportation infrastructure can therefore have a wider civic dimension, particularly around an election.

2

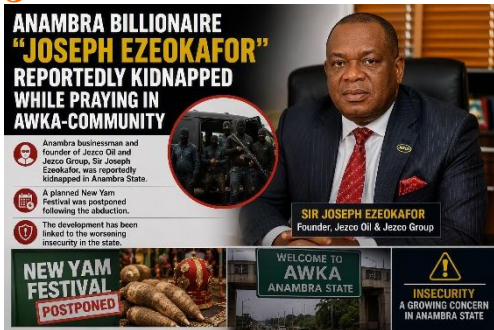


Rival Cult Groups Clash at Rivers University

Suspected rival cult groups reportedly exchanged gunfire at Ignatius Ajuru University of Education in Rumuolumeni, Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State. The clash caused pandemonium, disrupted academic activities and reportedly compelled students to flee the campus [Read More →](#)

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. Violence that creates fear and restricts movement can discourage citizens from participating in public activities, including voting. Insecurity in communities and educational environments can contribute to voter fear and apathy where people perceive movement to polling locations as unsafe.

3



Anambra Billionaire “Joseph Ezeokafor” Reportedly Kidnapped While Praying In Awka-Community

Anambra businessman and founder of Jezco Oil and Jezco Group, Sir Joseph Ezeokafor, was reportedly kidnapped in Anambra State. The report stated that a planned New Yam Festival was postponed following the abduction and linked the development to broader insecurity. [Read More →](#)

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. Kidnapping and insecurity can undermine freedom of movement and create fear among citizens. Where people perceive that communities and public spaces are unsafe, the resulting fear and apathy may also affect willingness to participate in electoral activities

4



Muslim-Muslim Ticket Debate Triggers Political Backlash

Islamic cleric Mr. Jingir reportedly expressed support for a Muslim-Muslim presidential ticket in 2027 and made remarks asserting a Muslim-majority identity for Nigeria while referring to non-Muslims as unbelievers. The remarks reportedly triggered political backlash. [Read More →](#)

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. Political expression is protected in a democratic society, but rhetoric that frames political competition around religious identity can heighten social tension and affect the sense of inclusion of citizens from different faiths. The right to vote and contest elections applies to citizens irrespective of religious identity.

5



Police Summon Senator Fadahunsi over Alleged Threatening and Inciting Remarks

The Osun State Police Command reportedly summoned Senator Francis Adenigba Fadahunsi over alleged inflammatory remarks against members of the Accord Party ahead of the Osun governorship election. The invitation reportedly followed a viral video linked to a campaign event in Ilesa. [Read More →](#)

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. Threatening or inflammatory political rhetoric can heighten tensions between political groups and create conditions conducive for political violence or intimidation. Professional and impartial policing is important in protecting political actors, supporters and voters and in maintaining confidence around elections.

6

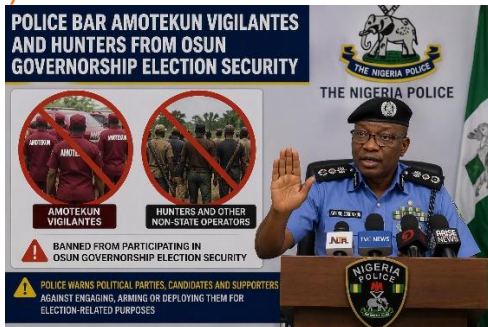


Ten Police Officers and Two Civilians Reportedly Killed in Kebbi

The Inspector General of Police, Olatunji Rilwan Disu, reportedly mourned the deaths of 10 police officers and two civilians following a gun battle with suspected bandits in Sakaba Local Government Area of Kebbi State and vowed to intensify operations to bring the perpetrators to justice. [Read More →](#)

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. Deaths and continuing insecurity affect the safety of citizens and security personnel and may undermine freedom of movement and participation in public life. Persistent violence can also weaken public confidence in the ability of institutions to provide a safe environment for civic and electoral participation.

7



Police Bar Amotekun Vigilantes and Hunters from Osun Governorship Election Security

The Nigeria Police Force reportedly barred the Western Nigeria Security Network, popularly known as Amotekun, and other non-state operators from participating in security arrangements for the Osun governorship election. The police reportedly warned political parties, candidates and their supporters against engaging, arming or deploying them for election-related purposes. [Read More →](#)

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. Clear command structures and professional, impartial security arrangements are important to voter safety and confidence. Regulating actors involved in election security can help reduce the risk of intimidation, unlawful deployment of armed groups and disruption of peaceful participation.

8

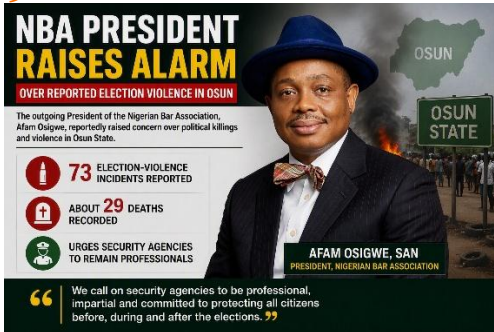


Bauchi CJ Inaugurates Local Government Election and Appeal Tribunals

The Chief Judge of Bauchi State, Justice Rabi Talatu Umar, reportedly inaugurated local government election tribunals and an appeal tribunal and charged members to discharge their responsibilities with impartiality, independence and fidelity to the law. [Read More →](#)

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. Independent and impartial election tribunals are important to the peaceful resolution of electoral disputes and the protection of access to justice. Judicial independence strengthens confidence that complaints arising from elections can be addressed through lawful and credible processes.

9



NBA President Raises Alarm over Reported Election Violence in Osun

The outgoing President of the Nigerian Bar Association, Afam Osigwe, reportedly raised concern over political killings and violence in Osun State, citing 73 election-violence incidents and about 29 deaths, and urged security agencies to remain professionals. [Read More →](#)

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. Reported political violence presents a direct threat to the right to life, security of the person and political participation. Concerns raised around an election underscore the importance of preventing intimidation and violence and ensuring that voters, candidates and political actors can participate peacefully.

RIGHTS AT RISK

The developments monitored during the reporting period demonstrates the close relationship between electoral participation, public security and the protection of fundamental rights. While the incidents varied in scope and location, they collectively highlight rights that may be adversely affected when insecurity, political tension, restrictions on movement and institutional pressures occur.

RIGHT	WHY IT MATTERS THIS WEEK
Right to Life	Reported violence, killings and kidnapping threaten civilian safety and peaceful participation in public life.
Freedom of Movement	Flight disruptions and insecurity can restrict citizens' ability to travel.
Right to Vote	Fear, insecurity and movement barriers can make it more difficult for citizens to participate safely.
Right to Political Participation	Inflammatory rhetoric, intimidation and violence can discourage political engagement.
Access to Justice	Independent election tribunals are important for peaceful and credible resolution of electoral disputes.

When Insecurity and Political Tension Become Barriers to Electoral Participation

The incidents monitored during this reporting period demonstrate that barriers to electoral participation are not limited to events occurring inside polling units. Citizens must be able to move safely, participate in political activities without intimidation and trust that institutions can protect their rights before they can meaningfully exercise the right to vote.

The reported disruption of flights is a useful illustration of how a development outside the conventional electoral sphere can have civic consequences. Where transport disruptions prevent citizens from travelling to their destinations, including places where they intend to vote, freedom of movement becomes directly connected to electoral participation.

Reports of violence, kidnapping and killings reinforce the importance of security in creating an enabling environment for elections. In Osun, reported election-related violence and alleged inflammatory political remarks are particularly significant in the context of the governorship election. The regulation of security actors therefore remains important to protecting voters and political participants.

The period also highlights the importance of inclusion and institutional safeguards. Political rhetoric framed around religious identity can affect perceptions of belonging, while independent election tribunals provide an essential avenue for resolving electoral disputes peacefully. Electoral integrity therefore depends not only on the conduct of voting, but also on the conditions in which citizens participate

LOOKING AHEAD

As Nigeria navigates through successive stages of electoral and democratic activity, developments affecting public safety, political participation, freedom of movement and institutional accountability will require continued attention. The following developments will be particularly important to monitor in the coming reporting period:

- ▶ Security developments and reported incidents of political violence in Osun State and their implications for voters, candidates and communities.
- ▶ Conduct and deployment of security personnel and other actors during election-related activities
- ▶ Further developments concerning alleged inflammatory or inciting political statements and their effect on political tensions.
- ▶ Incidents of kidnapping, banditry, cult violence and other insecurity that may restrict movement or discourage civic participation.
- ▶ Developments affecting the independence and effectiveness of election tribunals and other institutions responsible for resolving electoral disputes
- ▶ Transport, communication and other disruptions that may create practical barriers to citizens' participation in the electoral process

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