

EDITOR'S NOTE

This third edition tracks reported developments between 15 and 21 August 2026 that may affect electoral participation, human rights and democratic governance in Nigeria. Particular attention is given to the post-Osun electoral environment, security, access to voting, disinformation, political inclusion and the wider conditions that shape meaningful participation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The reporting period reflected a mix of immediate electoral concerns and longer-term democratic governance issues. In Osun State, reported shooting at a collation centre, allegations of disenfranchisement of hijab-wearing Muslim women, and an alleged attack on the governor's convoy highlighted continuing concerns around electoral security, inclusion and political violence after the governorship poll. INEC also identified localized electoral violence, vote buying, hate speech, disinformation and foreign information manipulation as threats to the 2027 elections. Beyond elections, flash flooding in Abuja and poor road infrastructure in Ogun raised questions about how environmental and infrastructure failures can affect movement, livelihoods and participation. The period also saw renewed debate on religiously framed political rhetoric, policing reform, protection of children from political campaigns and the findings of an international pre-election assessment

TOP ELECTORAL & HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS

1



Sporadic Shooting Rocks Osogbo Collation Centre as IReV Upload Stalls

On the night of 15 August, sporadic shooting was reportedly heard at Union Baptist Primary School in Osogbo, where the Ataoja D Ward 4 collation centre for the Osun governorship election was located. The report stated that security personnel fired several shots into the air and released canisters within the premises as tension mounted over collation and transmission of results, with 471 polling-unit results reportedly outstanding. [Read More →](#)

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. The safety of electoral officials, observers, party agents and other participants is essential to credible elections. Violence or the perception of insecurity at a collation centre can undermine confidence in the results process and discourage participation in future electoral activities. Delays in result transmission can also heighten tension where stakeholders lack timely access to information.

2



Thousands of Muslim Women Allegedly Disenfranchised over wearing of Hijab — MURIC Accuses INEC

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. The Muslim Rights Concern reportedly accused INEC of preventing thousands of hijab-wearing Muslim women from voting in the Osun election. The claim prompted calls for verifiable data to establish the scale and locations of the alleged disenfranchisement

3



Gunfire Erupts as Hoodlums Reportedly Attack Governor Adeleke's Convoy

On 19 August, suspected hoodlums reportedly attacked the convoy of Osun State Governor Ademola Adeleke shortly after his visit to the palace of the Ataoja of Osogbo. The report stated that an exchange of gunfire occurred between the alleged assailants and security personnel, with no casualty recorded [Read More →](#)

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. Political violence or attacks involving public officials can intensify fear and tension after an election and may affect the willingness of political actors and citizens to participate in public life. Prompt, impartial investigation and accountability are important to preventing escalation and protecting political participation.

4



INEC Warns against AI-Driven Misinformation after Osun Poll

INEC reportedly identified security risks, localized electoral violence, vote buying, hate speech, disinformation, and foreign information manipulation and interference as major threats capable of undermining the credibility of Nigeria's 2027 general elections. The commission also warned against AI-driven misinformation and stated that 'ghost voting' is impossible under BVAS. [Read More →](#)

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. Access to reliable electoral information is increasingly important to meaningful political participation. AI-generated and other forms of disinformation can confuse voters, damage trust in electoral institutions and amplify hate or inflammatory narratives. Effective public communication, verification and transparency are therefore important safeguards for the information environment surrounding elections.

5



Muslim-Muslim Leadership Debate Intensifies over Religiously Framed Political Rhetoric

Islamic scholar Sheikh Musa Salihu Alburhan, described in the report as an ally of Sheikh Saniyahaya Jingir, reportedly defended the Muslim-Muslim leadership of President Bola Tinubu and Vice President Kashim Shettima, stating that he would rather endure hardship under a Muslim leader than enjoy material comfort under a non-Muslim leader. [Read More →](#)

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. Religiously framed political rhetoric can shape perceptions of political inclusion and belonging in a religiously diverse society. Citizens should be able to participate in political life without exclusion or intimidation based on religion, while public discourse should not deepen tensions that may undermine peaceful democratic participation.

6



2027: Calls to Keep Nigerian Children Out of Political Campaigns

As Nigeria moves into another election season, a report called for children to be kept out of political campaigns and argued that school-age children should not be recruited into campaign activities because political campaigns are an adult activity and children have not reached voting age. [Read More →](#)

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. Children have a right to protection from exploitation and harmful political activity. Keeping children outside campaign mobilisation and political activities that may expose them to crowds, conflict or partisan pressure is also important to safeguarding their wellbeing and maintaining a clear distinction between civic education and partisan mobilisation.

7



IRI Pre-Election Assessment Flags Insecurity, Vote-Buying and Declining Trust

The International Republican Institute concluded a pre-election assessment mission ahead of Nigeria's 2027 general elections. Its statement of findings reportedly noted that Nigeria has institutional foundations for a functioning democracy, but political consolidation, opposition fragmentation, insecurity, vote-buying, electoral violence and declining public trust could undermine meaningful democratic participation. [Read More →](#)

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. The assessment places immediate incidents within a broader electoral context. Where insecurity, vote-buying, violence and declining trust persist, citizens may face barriers to making free and informed choices. Strengthening confidence in electoral institutions and meaningful participation is therefore central to democratic resilience.

8



Flash Flood Hits Parts of Abuja, Leaving Residents Stranded

Heavy rainfall reportedly triggered flash flooding in parts of Abuja on 16 August. Residents and motorists were reportedly stranded, vehicles were submerged or damaged, and some businesses were forced to close. [Read More →](#)

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. Flooding can affect freedom of movement, livelihoods and access to essential services. In an electoral context, severe weather and damaged or inaccessible routes can also create practical barriers to participation, particularly for people who depend on public roads and transport.

9

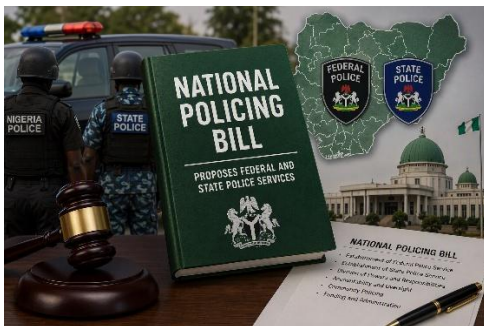


Poor Mowe-Ofada Road Leaves Commuters Groaning over Fares

Residents and commuters along the Mowe-Ofada road in Mowe, Obafemi Owode Local Government Area of Ogun State, reportedly complained about the poor condition of the road and the abandonment of the road project, saying the situation had disrupted businesses and increased transportation costs. [Read More →](#)

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. Poor transport infrastructure can affect freedom of movement and impose additional costs on citizens. Where roads are difficult to access, citizens may face greater barriers to reaching public institutions, community activities and, during elections, registration or polling locations.

10



National Policing Bill Proposes Federal and State Police Services

The presidential working group on the National Policing Bill reportedly said work on the proposed legislation remained on schedule, with the first drafting exercise underway and an extended deadline for memoranda and position papers set to close on 21 August. [Read More →](#)

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. Policing structures have a direct relationship with the protection of life, security and civic space. The development of a policing framework therefore has implications for how security agencies interact with citizens and political actors, including during elections. Public participation in legislative processes is important to accountable policing reform.

RIGHTS AT RISK

This reporting period highlights a broad set of rights that can be affected by electoral violence, exclusion, disinformation, insecurity and barriers to movement. The developments also demonstrate that conditions outside polling locations, including infrastructure, flooding, political rhetoric and policing arrangements, can shape the quality of democratic participation.

RIGHT	WHY IT MATTERS THIS WEEK
Right to Life & Security	Reported shootings and attacks raise concerns for the safety of citizens and political actors.
Right to Vote & Equal Participation	Allegations of disenfranchisement require transparent verification and accountability
Freedom of Movement	Flooding and poor roads can restrict access and increase the cost of movement.
Access to Reliable Information	AI-driven misinformation and disinformation can undermine informed participation.
Freedom of Religion & Non-Discrimination	Religiously framed political rhetoric can affect perceptions of equal political inclusion
Children's Right to Protection	Children should not be exposed to partisan mobilisation or political campaign risks.

TAP INSIGHT

Electoral Participation Does Not End at the Polling Unit

The developments monitored this week shows that the quality of electoral participation is shaped by conditions far beyond the act of casting a vote. Security incidents at a collation centre, allegations of disenfranchisement, political attacks and the spread of disinformation all affect citizens' confidence in the electoral process.

The Osun developments are particularly significant. Reported shooting at a collation centre and an alleged attack on the governor's convoy demonstrate how political tension can persist beyond polling day. At the same time, allegations that Muslim women were prevented from voting raise questions about whether all citizens are able to exercise political rights on equal terms. Such claims require transparent verification rather than assumption, particularly where public trust in electoral institutions is at stake.

The information environment is another emerging concern. INEC's identification of AI-driven misinformation, hate speech, vote buying, electoral violence and foreign information manipulation as threats to the 2027 elections reflects a wider challenge: citizens need accurate and accessible information to make informed political choices. Disinformation can deepen distrust even where the underlying electoral process is functioning.

Finally, the Abuja flooding and Mowe-Ofada road conditions illustrate a broader point. This shows that human rights are interdependent and interconnected. The practical ability to participate in civic and electoral life depends on safe and accessible roads, functioning public infrastructure and freedom of movement. Electoral inclusion therefore requires attention not only to electoral administration, but also to the everyday conditions that enable citizens to reach and participate in public life.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we move from the Osun state election towards the 2027 electoral cycle, the next reporting period will be important for tracking whether current tensions will transform into sustained risks to participation, trust and public safety. Tap Initiative will continue to monitor:

- ▶ Post-election security developments in Osun and any further incidents involving political actors, supporters or electoral institutions.
- ▶ Verification and institutional responses to allegations of disenfranchisement or unequal access to voting.

- ▶ Electoral disinformation, AI-generated content, hate speech and other information-manipulation trends.
- ▶ Security incidents and infrastructure failures that may restrict citizens' movement or access to public services.
- ▶ Developments around policing reform and the implications of proposed changes for accountability and civic space.
- ▶ Political mobilisation involving children and measures to protect children from partisan campaign activities.

TAP INITIATIVE FOR CITIZENS' DEVELOPMENT

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For Briefing Inquiries, Strategic Partnerships & Funding Alignment: info@tapinitiative.org | www.tapinitiative.org