

EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Tap Electoral & Human Rights Monitor, a weekly publication of Tap Initiative for Citizens' Development dedicated to monitoring developments that shape electoral integrity, democratic governance and the enjoyment of human rights in Nigeria. Events occurring long before election day can have significant implications for the credibility of elections and citizens' confidence in democratic institutions. The Monitor therefore tracks key developments reported across print, online and digital media and examines their implications for electoral integrity and human rights.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The reporting period was characterised by developments highlighting the close relationship between electoral integrity, public security and the protection of human rights. Several incidents point to emerging challenges capable of influencing citizens' confidence in democratic institutions and their willingness to participate in future electoral processes. Among the most significant were the reported theft of Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) from an INEC distribution centre in Osun State and the recovery of PVCs and voter registers during a police operation in the same state. The week also witnessed continued insecurity, including a deadly attack on a community in Kaduna State and an assault on a judicial institution in Katsina State. On a positive note, INEC reaffirmed that the Nigeria Police Force remains the lead agency for election security and that military deployment should remain exceptional. Collectively, these developments illustrate that safeguarding electoral integrity extends beyond polling day and requires secure electoral infrastructure, effective public institutions, respect for the rule of law and sustained protection of human rights.

TOP ELECTORAL & HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS

1



Hoodlums Cart Away PVCs from INEC Distribution Centre in Osun State

INEC commenced investigations following an attack on one of its Permanent Voter Card (PVC) distribution centres in Osun State, where armed hoodlums reportedly carted away three packs of PVCs after opening sporadic gunfire. The incident caused panic among officials and residents and renewed concerns regarding the security of sensitive electoral materials. [Read More →](#)

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. The protection of electoral materials is fundamental to the effective enjoyment of the right to vote. Attacks targeting PVCs threaten electoral logistics and public confidence in the credibility and fairness of elections. Transparent investigations and timely public communication are essential to preserving trust.

2



Terrorist Attack in Kaduna Highlights the Link Between Insecurity and Democratic Participation

A deadly terrorist attack on Naridon Community in Kaduna State reportedly claimed more than thirty lives, including women and children, while others were injured and homes destroyed. Residents also reported that poor road infrastructure delayed emergency response efforts. Beyond the immediate loss of life, the incident reflects continuing security challenges that affect civic life, freedom of movement and citizens' willingness to participate in public affairs. [Read More →](#)

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. The right to life remains foundational to the exercise of democratic rights. Communities affected by violence may experience displacement, fear and reduced civic participation. Sustained insecurity can therefore become a significant obstacle to inclusive, peaceful and credible elections.

3



Police Recover PVCs and Voter Register During Osun Investigation

The Nigeria Police Force confirmed the recovery of Permanent Voter Cards, voter registers, cash and electronic devices during an operation in Osun State that led to the arrest of multiple suspects. Authorities indicated that investigations remain ongoing to determine the origin of the recovered electoral materials and whether electoral offences may have been committed. [Read More →](#)

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. Electoral transparency depends on the secure handling of electoral materials throughout the electoral cycle. Public confidence is strengthened when alleged electoral offences are investigated independently, thoroughly and transparently.

4



Attack on Katsina Court Raises Concerns Over Protection of Judicial Institutions

A Sharia Court in Katsina State reportedly came under attack when armed men stormed the court premises during proceedings in search of the presiding judge. Court officials and members of the public fled for safety, while judicial activities were disrupted. The incident heightened concerns regarding the vulnerability of judicial institutions to insecurity. [Read More →](#)

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. An independent and secure judiciary is indispensable to credible elections and democratic governance. Electoral disputes, constitutional challenges and human rights claims depend on courts being able to operate without intimidation. Threats against judicial institutions therefore affect both access to justice and public trust in democratic governance.



INEC Reaffirms Police as Lead Agency for Election Security

INEC reaffirmed that the Nigeria Police Force remains the primary agency responsible for election security, while military deployment during elections should be limited to exceptional circumstances. The Commission also reiterated its commitment to inclusive participation by women, persons with disabilities, older persons and other vulnerable groups. [Read More →](#)

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. Election security should protect and not intimidate voters. A civilian-led approach, supported by professional and impartial law enforcement, can strengthen public confidence and create an enabling environment for citizens to exercise political rights freely and peacefully.

RIGHTS AT RISK

The developments monitored during the reporting period illustrate the close relationship between electoral integrity and the protection of fundamental human rights. While the incidents varied in scope and location, they collectively highlight rights that may be adversely affected when insecurity, institutional weaknesses and threats to democratic processes occur.

RIGHT	WHY IT MATTERS THIS WEEK
Right to Life	Violent attacks continue to threaten civilian safety and peaceful participation in public life.
Right to Vote	Incidents involving PVCs highlight the importance of protecting electoral materials.
Right to Political Participation	Insecurity may discourage citizens from participating freely in democratic processes.
Access to Justice	Threats to judicial institutions undermine confidence in justice and peaceful dispute resolution.
Right to Security of the Person	Persistent violence affects communities and the enjoyment of fundamental rights.

TAP INSIGHT

Election Security Begins Before Election Day: Protecting Electoral Materials, Institutions and Public Confidence

When discussions about election security arise, public attention often focuses on polling day, the deployment of security personnel, crowd control at polling units and the protection of election officials. Recent developments demonstrate, however, that election security extends well beyond election day.

The reported theft of Permanent Voter Cards from an INEC distribution centre and the subsequent recovery of PVCs and voter registers in Osun State illustrate why safeguarding electoral materials throughout the electoral cycle is fundamental to public confidence. Incidents involving sensitive electoral materials can undermine trust in election administration if they are not addressed transparently and promptly.

Election security also extends to the institutions responsible for upholding democracy. The reported attack on a judicial institution in Katsina State is a reminder that courts remain indispensable to Nigeria's democratic system. Electoral disputes, constitutional questions and allegations of rights violations depend on an independent judiciary capable of operating without intimidation or fear.

Persistent insecurity affecting communities also poses significant challenges for democratic participation. Violence may discourage voter registration, limit civic engagement, disrupt election preparations and reduce citizens' willingness to exercise political rights. Protecting the right to vote therefore requires an environment in which citizens can participate freely and safely.

INEC's reaffirmation that elections remain civilian processes, with the Nigeria Police Force serving as the lead agency for election security, reinforces the principle that election security should facilitate rather than inhibit participation. As Nigeria prepares for future electoral processes, strengthening electoral integrity will require sustained collaboration among electoral management bodies, security agencies, civil society, political parties, the media and citizens.

LOOKING AHEAD

As Nigeria moves towards the next phase of electoral preparations, developments in the areas of electoral security, protection of electoral materials, public safety and institutional accountability will require continued attention. The following developments will be particularly important to monitor in the coming reporting period:

- ▶ Progress of investigations into the reported theft and recovery of electoral materials in Osun State.
- ▶ Security developments in communities affected by recent attacks and their implications for civic participation.
- ▶ INEC announcements relating to election administration, voter education and electoral preparedness.
- ▶ Emerging incidents affecting electoral integrity, democratic governance and the enjoyment of human rights across Nigeria.
- ▶ Judicial and legislative developments with implications for elections and democratic accountability.

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