

EDITOR'S NOTE

The fourth edition of the Tap Electoral & Human Rights Monitor tracks reported developments between 23 and 27 August 2026 that have implications for electoral participation, human rights, security and democratic governance in Nigeria. This edition highlights persistent concerns around insecurity, access and mobility, threats to political choice, public confidence in electoral technology, and the protection of vulnerable groups.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The reporting period demonstrates how conditions outside the polling environment can significantly shape citizens' ability to participate in democratic processes. Reports of insecurity and kidnapping in Kebbi and Borno, deteriorating road infrastructure and flooding along major highways, and threats directed at residents in Abuja raise concerns about safety, freedom of movement and citizens' ability to participate freely in public and political life

Electoral trust also remains a prominent concern. Questions raised about INEC's technology and calls for closer monitoring of the results collation process point to the continuing importance of transparency and public confidence in electoral administration. At the same time, reported political threats against residents in Kuje raise concerns about the freedom to support political parties and candidates of one's choice without intimidation.

TOP ELECTORAL & HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS

1



Troops Scuttle Ransom Exchange, Rescue Kidnap Victim in Kebbi

Troops of Sector 2, Operation Fansan Yamma, reportedly rescued a female kidnapping victim and disrupted a planned ransom exchange during counter-terrorism and anti-banditry operations in Kebbi State.

[Read More →](#)

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. Kidnapping and insecurity pose direct threats to the rights to life and security and can restrict citizens' freedom of movement. Persistent insecurity can also create fear and discourage citizens from participating in political and electoral activities, particularly in affected communities.

2



Highways of Horror: Motorists Wail, Spend Four Days on Benin–Asaba Road

Motorists reportedly spent several days navigating the poor condition of the Benin–Asaba road, prompting renewed concerns over Nigeria’s deteriorating road infrastructure. The Federal Government reportedly announced plans to review concessioned roads. [Read More →](#)

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. Access to safe and functional transportation is closely connected to freedom of movement and access to economic and public life. During elections, poor roads can make it more difficult and expensive for citizens, electoral officials and other stakeholders to reach communities and polling locations.

3



100 Days After, Where Are the 44 Missing Borno Children?

Reports continued to draw attention to children abducted during attacks on communities and schools in Southern Borno. More than 40 children were reportedly abducted from Mussa Central Primary School in Askira-Uba in May, while another reported abduction occurred in Lassa community in June. Their whereabouts remained unknown. [Read More →](#)

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. The continued disappearance of children reflects the devastating impact of insecurity on the rights to life, liberty, security and education. Where communities remain affected by abductions and fear, citizens may be less able or willing to participate in civic and electoral activities

4



INEC Technology Can’t Be Trusted — Aisha Yesufu Urges Nigerians to Monitor Collation Process

Activist Aisha Yesufu reportedly questioned public reliance on INEC’s electoral technology and urged Nigerians to closely monitor the counting and movement of result sheets throughout the collation process. [Read More →](#)

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. Confidence in electoral processes is fundamental to meaningful political participation. Concerns about the reliability of electoral technology reinforce the need for transparency, accessible information and credible monitoring mechanisms throughout the results-management process.

5



“Only the Roof Was Visible”: Flood Video Sparks Questions over Federal Highway Projects

A viral video reportedly showing a vehicle almost completely submerged in floodwater on the Lagos–Ore–Benin federal highway triggered renewed criticism over the state of major roads and calls for rehabilitation of existing infrastructure. [Read More →](#)

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. Flooding and deteriorating infrastructure can restrict freedom of movement, disrupt livelihoods and isolate communities. These challenges can become particularly significant during elections where citizens and election personnel depend on accessible roads to reach polling and collation locations.

6



“Vote APC or Leave Kuje” — Abuja Council Chairman Threatens Residents

The Chairman of Kuje Area Council in the Federal Capital Territory, Danjuma Shekwolo, reportedly told residents that they should either support the All Progressives Congress in the 2027 elections or leave the area council. Amnesty International reportedly called for accountability over the remarks. [Read More →](#)

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. Citizens have the right to participate in political and electoral processes without intimidation or coercion. Threats linked to political affiliation can undermine freedom of political choice and create an environment in which residents may fear expressing or exercising their preferred political views.

7



FG Sets 90-Day Deadline for Committee to Produce National Security Strategy

The Federal Government reportedly inaugurated a committee to prepare a comprehensive national threat assessment and a rolling five-year strategic defence operations plan for Nigeria, with a 90-day deadline for completion. [Read More →](#)

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. National security policy has direct implications for the protection of life, security and civic space. As Nigeria approaches the 2027 electoral cycle, the effectiveness, accountability and human-rights compliance of security responses will remain important to creating an environment in which citizens can participate freely and safely.

RIGHTS AT RISK

The incidents monitored during this period point to a recurring relationship between security, infrastructure, political freedom and meaningful participation. Electoral participation can be undermined not only by incidents occurring at polling stations, but also by insecurity, inaccessible roads, flooding, political intimidation and declining confidence in electoral processes.

RIGHT	WHY IT MATTERS THIS WEEK
Right to Life & Security	Kidnapping and insecurity continue to threaten citizens and communities
Freedom of Movement	Poor roads, flooding and insecurity can restrict movement and access.
Right to Education & Protection of Children	Continued abductions of schoolchildren expose children to grave protection risks.
Right to Vote & Political Participation	Political threats and insecurity can discourage citizens from exercising political rights freely.
Freedom from Intimidation	Threats linked to political affiliation can restrict citizens' freedom of political choice
Right to Reliable Electoral Information	Concerns about electoral technology highlight the importance of transparency and public confidence.

TAP INSIGHT

When Human Rights Are at Risk: What It Means for Elections

The incidents monitored this week demonstrates that the conditions necessary for meaningful electoral participation begin long before citizens arrive at the polling unit. It also showcases that human rights are interconnected, interrelated and interdependent.

A citizen living in an insecure community may have the legal right to vote but may be unwilling to travel because of fear of kidnapping or violence. A voter whose community is cut off by flooding or poor roads may face practical barriers to reaching a polling location. Similarly, a citizen who is threatened because of their political preference may technically possess the right to vote but may not be able to exercise that right freely.

The reported threat to Kuje residents is particularly significant in this regard. Political participation requires more than the existence of a ballot. Citizens must be able to support candidates, express political opinions and make electoral choices without coercion or fear. Political intimidation therefore affects not only individual rights but also the broader integrity of the electoral process.

The concerns surrounding INEC's technology raise another dimension of participation: trust. Citizens need confidence that their votes will be properly recorded, transmitted, collated and reflected in the final outcome. Transparency in the management of electoral results is therefore essential to sustaining public confidence.

As Nigeria moves towards 2027, protecting elections requires attention to the broader human-rights environment in which elections take place. Security, freedom of movement, political freedom, access to information and protection from intimidation are not separate from electoral integrity, they are part of it.

LOOKING AHEAD

As Nigeria moves further into the 2027 electoral cycle, the coming weeks will be important for monitoring whether the concerns identified in this edition remain isolated incidents or develop into broader patterns affecting citizens' ability to participate safely and freely. Tap Initiative will continue to monitor:

- ▶ Security incidents, particularly kidnapping and attacks affecting communities and political activities.
- ▶ Conditions of major roads and other infrastructure that may restrict movement and access.
- ▶ Developments concerning abducted children and the protection of children in conflict-affected communities.
- ▶ Public confidence in INEC's technology and the transparency of results collation and transmission.
- ▶ Political statements or actions that may intimidate citizens because of their political affiliation or choice.
- ▶ Government responses to insecurity and the implementation of national security strategies.
- ▶ Emerging human-rights concerns that may affect meaningful participation in the 2027 electoral process.

TAP INITIATIVE FOR CITIZENS' DEVELOPMENT

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