THE TAP ELECTORAL & HUMAN RIGHTS MONITOR

Monitoring Electoral Integrity, Human Rights and Democratic Governance in Nigeria

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The eleventh edition of the Tap Electoral & Human Rights Monitor tracks reported developments between 9 November and 17 November 2026 with implications for human rights, electoral participation and democratic governance. The reporting period examines disputes over party nominations, warnings against inflammatory political rhetoric, the clean-up of the voters' register and concerns about restrictions on opposition campaigning.

The reporting period also records incidents of political violence and insecurity in Kano, Lagos, Plateau and Jigawa, alongside a state-level restriction on girls' night hawking and renewed attention to procedural safeguards governing criminal prosecutions.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Issue 011 highlights ten developments with implications for Nigeria's democratic environment and human rights protection. INEC condemned the "rig and die" slogan, warning that inflammatory political messaging could endanger members of the public, and announced the removal of 1,609,533 invalid voter records, with 54 persons identified for possible prosecution.

A legal commentary by Femi Falana, SAN, argues that state-imposed campaign billboard permit fees and restrictions on opposition use of publicly owned facilities may undermine fair political competition. Clashes and attacks involving political supporters were reported in Kano and Lagos.

Other developments include the Katsina State Hisbah Board's reported prohibition of girls' night hawking after 10 p.m. and calls for prosecutors to comply with legal requirements governing confessional statements. Together, these reports underline the need for transparent electoral administration, protection of political participation, accountability for violence and rights-respecting enforcement of public policies.

TOP ELECTORAL & HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS

1



INEC warns that 'rig and die' slogan could endanger innocent Nigerians

INEC, through its National Commissioner Haruna, reportedly condemned the "rig and die" slogan being promoted by some political actors ahead of the 2027 general elections. The Commission warned that inflammatory rhetoric could expose innocent Nigerians to violence and undermine electoral credibility. INEC also reiterated that the Commission, rather than political parties or individual candidates, is responsible for declaring election results. **Read More →**

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. Political speech is protected, but public figures and political organisations must avoid rhetoric that incites violence or makes attacks appear legitimate. Clear communication about the lawful authority to declare results can discourage parallel announcements, misinformation and conduct capable of provoking unrest.

2



INEC removes over 1.6 million invalid voter records; 54 persons identified for possible prosecution

INEC Chairman Joash Amupitan reportedly announced that the Commission had removed 1,609,533 records from the national voters' register following a nationwide clean-up. The exercise reportedly identified multiple registrations, manipulated photographs, irregular registration patterns and entries relating to deceased persons. The Chairman also announced that 54 persons had been identified for possible prosecution. Read More →

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. An accurate voters' register is central to the right to participate in public affairs and public confidence in elections. Removing duplicate or invalid entries can strengthen integrity, but the process must be transparent, evidence-based and safeguarded against wrongful exclusion. Any prosecution should follow due process, with affected persons able to respond to allegations and challenge decisions.

3



Katsina Hisbah Board announces 10 p.m. restriction on girls' night hawking

The Katsina State Hisbah Board reportedly prohibited girls from engaging in night hawking across the state and directed that the activity must stop by 10 p.m. The incident report says the Board warned parents about risks associated with girls' night hawking, including possible abuse and other social risks. No further details were supplied about the legal basis, implementation, affected age groups or consultation with girls and their families. Read More →

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. Measures intended to protect children and young people from exploitation should be lawful, proportionate and designed around their best interests and rights. A restriction directed specifically at girls raises questions about equal treatment and whether enforcement could expose girls or families to penalties without addressing the economic circumstances that lead to street trading. Protective interventions should prioritise safety, education and social support.

4



Concerns raised over loss of criminal cases due to procedural errors in confessional statements

The headline attributes the call to Labaran Magaji, SAN, urging prosecutors to master the rules governing confessional statements. However, the accompanying summary attributes the concern to Nasarawa State Governor Abdullahi Sule, who reportedly said criminal cases were being lost because of procedural lapses in obtaining and presenting confessional statements. The report says prosecutors and law enforcement officers were urged to keep abreast of evolving legal requirements. Read More →

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. Confessional statements can have serious consequences for an accused person and must be obtained and presented in accordance with constitutional and evidentiary safeguards. Compliance helps prevent coercion, unreliable evidence and wrongful convictions while supporting fair prosecutions. Statements should be voluntary, properly documented and subjected to safeguards required by law.

5



Femi Falana raises concerns over state-imposed campaign restrictions and fees

INEC In a legal commentary, Femi Falana, SAN, argues that decisions by federal and state authorities to restrict civic space have contributed to political violence. He contends that INEC has exclusive authority to issue guidelines for general elections, while some state governments and the FCT have reportedly fixed campaign billboard permit fees between ₦100 million and ₦200 million. The commentary also alleges that opposition parties and candidates have been prohibited from hiring state-owned stadia, hotels and public event centres for campaigns. **Ready More →**

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. The issues raised concern fair campaign conditions and parties' ability to communicate with voters. Excessive fees or discriminatory access restrictions, if established, may burden freedom of expression, association and political participation and advantage incumbents. Destruction of campaign materials is not a lawful response. Public rules should be lawful, transparent, proportionate and applied without political discrimination.

6



Gunmen kill 30-year-old man and injure his parents in Jigawa

Gunmen reportedly attacked a residence in Nabai Fulani settlement, Kargo Ward, Garki Local Government Area of Jigawa State, during the night. A 30-year-old man was killed and his parents injured. The supplied account does not identify the attackers or motive, or state whether arrests had been made. **Read More →**

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. The killing and injuries highlight threats to the rights to life, security of person and physical integrity. Authorities have a responsibility to protect communities, investigate attacks promptly and impartially, and ensure victims and families can access necessary support. Public communication should avoid speculation before investigations establish the facts.

7



Five killed in fresh attacks on three Plateau communities

Fresh attacks were reported in communities in Mangu, Riyom and Barkin Ladi Local Government Areas of Plateau State. According to the supplied report, five people were killed in coordinated attacks between Sunday night and the early hours of Monday. Further details about victims, perpetrators, motive, displacement or official response were not included in the summary. **Read More →**

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. The attacks underscore the vulnerability of communities affected by recurring violence and the state's obligation to protect life and security. Accountability requires prompt investigation, preservation of evidence, fair prosecution and support for affected families. Where attacks cause displacement or destroy livelihoods, authorities should assess humanitarian needs and ensure non-discriminatory access to assistance.

8



Eight arrested after APC and NDC supporters clash in Kano

The Kano State Police Command reportedly arrested eight suspects following a clash between supporters of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC) in Bichi Local Government Area. The supplied report does not detail the immediate cause, injuries or property damage, or the specific allegations against those arrested. Read More →

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. Political clashes threaten life, security, peaceful assembly and political participation. Parties should discourage violence among supporters, while security agencies must act impartially and ensure arrests are based on reasonable grounds. Those arrested must receive due-process protections, including access to legal assistance and protection from arbitrary detention or ill-treatment.

9

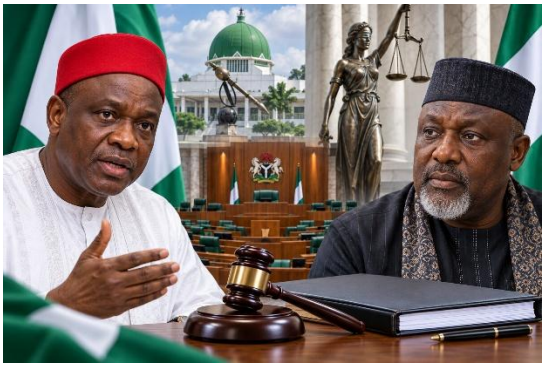


NDC supporters attacked during town hall meeting in Lagos

Anambra State Governor Professor Chukwuma Soludo attributed the failure of sections of road projects across the state to natural disasters, underground water and unfavourable weather conditions. The explanation was communicated through the Commissioner for Works and Infrastructure, Okey Ezeobi, who also referred to factors including heavy rainfall, drainage problems, overloaded vehicles and other human activities. The state government's position followed public criticism of the condition of some road projects. Read More →

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. Supporters of the Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC) were reportedly attacked by thugs during a town hall meeting in the Oregun area of Lagos State on Thursday, 12 November. The supplied account does not state the number of persons injured, identify those responsible or indicate whether arrests or official investigations followed.

10



Uzodimma insists he remains APC candidate for Imo West despite court victory for Okorocha

Imo State Governor Hope Uzodimma reportedly maintained that he remains the All Progressives Congress (APC) senatorial candidate for Imo West in the 2027 general elections. His position followed a Federal High Court judgment which, according to the report, ordered his replacement by former governor Rochas Okorocha. Uzodimma was reported to have rejected suggestions that he would surrender the party ticket. Read More →

Human Rights & Electoral Implications. The dispute raises questions about compliance with judicial decisions, internal party democracy and legal certainty in candidate selection. Political actors and party officials should respect court orders and pursue challenges through lawful processes. Failure to give effect to binding judicial decisions can weaken confidence in the rule of law and create uncertainty for voters, party members and electoral administrators

RIGHTS AT RISK

The developments in this issue point to interconnected rights concerns. Electoral integrity and equal political participation depend not only on credible voter registration and lawful candidate selection, but also on a campaign environment free from intimidation, discriminatory restrictions and violence.

RIGHT	WHY IT MATTERS THIS WEEK
Right to participation in public affairs	The dispute over the APC senatorial ticket for Imo West, the removal of over 1.6 million records from the voters' register and the reported restrictions on opposition parties' access to public campaign facilities raise questions about the protection of political participation and the conditions necessary for credible and inclusive elections.
Freedom of expression and opinion	INEC's warning against the "rig and die" slogan and the concerns raised over campaign billboard restrictions highlight the need to protect political expression while preventing rhetoric and conduct that may incite violence or intimidate political opponents.
Freedom of peaceful assembly and association	The reported attack on NDC supporters during a town hall meeting in Lagos and the clash between APC and NDC supporters in Kano demonstrate the risks faced by citizens seeking to participate in political meetings and associate with political groups of their choice.
Right to life, liberty and security of person	The killing of five persons in attacks on communities in Plateau State, the killing of a man and injury to his parents in Jigawa, and the reported political violence in Kano and Lagos underscore continuing threats to the safety and security of individuals and communities.
Right to equality and freedom from discrimination	The Katsina State Hisbah Board's reported restriction on girls' night hawking raises questions about the protection of girls from discriminatory treatment and whether measures introduced in the name of protection adequately consider their rights, circumstances and best interests.
Right to fair hearing and due process	The identification of 54 persons for possible prosecution over voter registration irregularities, the arrests following the political clash in Kano and concerns about procedural lapses in obtaining confessional statements underscore the importance of lawful investigations, fair trial guarantees and protection against arbitrary detention and wrongful prosecution.
Right to dignity of the human person	The reported attacks on political supporters and the concerns surrounding the treatment and protection of girls engaged in night hawking highlight the need to safeguard individuals against violence, abuse, intimidation and degrading treatment.
Respect for the rule of law and judicial authority	Governor Uzodimma's reported insistence that he remains the APC candidate for Imo West despite the Federal High Court judgment raises concerns about compliance with judicial decisions and respect for the authority of the courts

TAP INSIGHT

The 2027 Electoral Test: Protecting Political Competition, Civic Space and Public Safety

The developments recorded this week reveal two connected questions at the centre of Nigeria's democratic preparations: who gets to participate in governance, and whether the institutions responsible for managing public power can command public confidence. The proposals to reserve legislative seats for women and to establish a 35 per cent representation target recognise that women's exclusion from decision-making cannot be addressed by formal guarantees alone. The challenge

now is to turn these announcements into clear, enforceable and accountable measures. Without transparent design, implementation timelines and monitoring, affirmative-action commitments risk remaining political statements rather than practical routes to equal participation.

At the same time, the concerns surrounding AI, deepfakes and the preliminary voters' register show that electoral integrity increasingly depends on the quality of information and data systems. Technology may improve administrative efficiency, but it cannot substitute for transparency, human oversight and accessible remedies. INEC's disclosure that a substantial number of records were flagged for review makes the December certification deadline particularly important. The Commission must explain what was flagged, what was confirmed invalid, what was corrected and how eligible voters can ensure that their details remain accurate. The allegations about additional polling units also require a clear, evidence-based response rather than silence or partisan speculation.

The calls for verified chatbots and rapid-response systems are useful only if they strengthen public access to trustworthy information. Electoral authorities should not become the sole arbiters of acceptable political speech. Independent media, civil society organisations, researchers and citizens must retain the space to question official decisions and scrutinise electoral processes. The appropriate response to false information is timely disclosure, verifiable evidence and proportionate action, and not blanket restrictions that may chill expression.

The state-police amendment and the Police directive on campaign materials bring the conduct of security institutions into sharper focus. A decentralised policing model may improve responsiveness, but it must be accompanied by strong safeguards against political capture and abuse. Similarly, action against the destruction of campaign materials will protect political competition only if the Police enforce the law consistently across parties and candidates. The NJC's disciplinary action reinforces a parallel point: institutions must be both independent and accountable. Public authority is legitimate when it is exercised within the law and subject to effective oversight.

Finally, the debate over Anambra State's Road failures illustrates that accountability is not limited to election periods. Public infrastructure affects daily life and the ability of people to access essential services. Government explanations should be supported by transparent technical assessments and clear information about remedial action. As the country moves closer to the 2027 elections, citizens should be able to assess not only political promises, but also the performance and accountability of public institutions.

LOOKING AHEAD

As political activity intensifies ahead of 2027, Tap Initiative will continue to monitor public institutions, political parties and security agencies, with particular attention to civic space and the rights of voters and political participants

- Monitor INEC's implementation of the voters' register clean-up, including transparency and safeguards against wrongful removal of eligible voters.
- Track the response of the APC and relevant authorities to the reported Federal High Court judgment concerning the Imo West senatorial nomination.
- Examine the legal basis and application of campaign billboard fees and restrictions on publicly owned venues, including whether rules are applied equally.
- Document threats, attacks and intimidation affecting political meetings, supporters, candidates, journalists and election observers.
- Follow investigations and prosecutions arising from reported political clashes and attacks, with attention to impartiality and due process.
- Monitor the security response to attacks in Plateau and Jigawa and any resulting displacement or humanitarian needs.

  Assess implementation of the Katsina Hisbah Board's reported night-hawking restriction, including its legal basis, safeguards and impact on girls and families.
- Track statements by political leaders and electoral authorities that may promote peaceful participation or heighten electoral tensions.