

ENDSARS Protest and its Consequences in Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District, Nigeria

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Abstract

This study examined the consequences of EndSARS protest in Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District of Nigeria with specific objectives to determine whether EndSARS protest contributed to the destruction of properties in Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District of Nigeria; find out if EndSARS protest contribute to loss of lives in the study area. The study adopted the ex-post factor research design. This study adopted a qualitative research approach that focuses on how actions that have already occurred can predict certain causes. It used the conflict, relative deprivation and frustration-aggression theories and the design typically employs interviews and desk reviews to gather information. The data were presented in tables, charts and pictures and explained in simple percentages. Literature review however shows that EndSARS is notorious for its brutality and human rights abuses, and the lack of accountability for their actions caused huge losses from the protest. The study concluded that against the aftermath of the destruction of private and public businesses and properties during the EndSARS protest, several losses were recorded, while economic experts have itemized the immediate problems the crises created against Nigeria struggling economy. The study therefore recommended among others that the Inspector General of Police (IGP) in the collaboration with relevant stakeholders, should liaise with the budget office to improve the budgetary allocation for the police; as well as the number of personnel in the force to improve police efficiency in terms of capacity to adequately respond to emergencies such as the EndSARS protest; the Police Service Commission (PSC), the Senate and the House of Representatives Committee on police affairs should harmonies and review the welfare of the police to improve the quality of life of its personnel in line with prevailing economic realities; the government should actively promote youth participation in decision-making through appointments in governance, youth-focused polices, and the encouragement of political involvement.

Keywords: Consequences, Contribution EndSARS, Protest,

Introduction

Globally, major disruptive events such as group protests, civil conflicts and politically motivated violence have had severe impacts on economic growth in many countries of the world (Bleaney & Nishiyama, 2002). Since the return of democracy in Nigeria in 1999, the

historic eight-day general strike, mass rallies and street protests in Nigeria became the first national protest that brought the nation to a standstill economically. From Monday January 9 to Monday January 16, 2012, the country was brought to a halt with both public and private businesses locked down to protest the increase in pump price of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) with scores of protesters cut across all age brackets passing nights on major streets across the country demanding for a reversal to the old pump price of PMS (Lakemfa, 2012).

EndSARS, widely referred to as EndSARS, was a major and most cruel protest that took place across the various states in Nigeria and its occurrence brought about a huge and massive loss of lives and properties. This level of protest, which had never happened in the country, devastated the fragile economy of Nigeria, which was trying to pick up from the ruins of the COVID-19 pandemic. EndSARS decentralized social movement and a series of mass protests against police brutality in Nigeria that mainly occurred in 2020. The movement's slogan called for the disbandment of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), a notorious unit of the Nigerian Police known for its long record of abuse against Nigerian citizens. The protests originated from a Twitter campaign in 2017, using the hashtag EndSARS to demand the unit's disbandment by the Nigerian government. The movement experienced resurgence in October 2020 following further revelations of the unit's abuses, leading to mass demonstrations across major cities in Nigeria and widespread outrage on social media platforms. The hashtag #EndSARS accumulated over 28 million tweets on Twitter alone. Solidarity protests and demonstrations by Nigerians in the diaspora and sympathizers occurred in many major cities worldwide. Notably, the movement was predominantly led by young Nigerians and expanded to include demands for good governance and accountability amidst unprecedented hardship in the country.

Before the amalgamation of Northern and Southern Protectorates with the crown colony of Lagos in 1914, forming Nigeria as a country, both protectorates had their separate policing structures for many years. With the amalgamation, the two police authorities merged in 1930, creating a central police service known as the Nigeria Police Force (NPF). However, from 1943 to 1966, the three component regions of Northern Nigeria, Eastern Nigeria and Western Nigeria operated, controlled and maintained regional policing systems, with each region having its police command (Ekwunife *et al.*, 2021). Notably, with the provisions of the Native Authority Ordinance (NAO) of 1943, many autonomous communities and regions still had local police formations not under the command of the unified central policing system formed in 1930. But with the first coup d'état of 1966, the military administration of General Aguyi Ironsi signed the decree that saw the dissolution of the native, indigenous and local police units. The members of the dissolved local police forces were absorbed into the Nigerian Police Force (NPF) between 1967 and 1979 (Shyllon, 2008).

The need for effectively policing society has seen significant reforms in the Nigerian Police Force since independence. As criminals invent ways of perpetrating crimes, the police

and other security agencies also adopt new measures and strategies to police the society. It was as a result of the growing activities of armed gangs in Lagos and most cities in southern Nigeria that led to the creation of the Anti-Robbery Squad (ARS) in 1992, as one of the specialized units under the State Criminal Investigation and Intelligence Department (SCIID) of the Nigeria Police Force. The squad was made up of special officers from the mainstream NPF, trained and equipped to function effectively. Paquette (2020) observed that the operational mandate of the new police unit was to track, engage, arrest, detain, investigate and prosecute suspects believed to be involved in criminal activities such as kidnapping, highway and street robbery, car snatching, and other violent crimes. The mode of operation was for the ARS operatives to be undercover masked agents in plain clothes and vehicles without any trace of government insignia or firearms.

In what appeared to be the beginning of criminal activities, particularly within the Lagos metropolis, the need to extend the services of ARS to the rest of the country became necessary, hence, the rebranding of ARS into the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) in 2002. The scope of operation was to cover the entire country, to drastically reduce activities of armed robbery, kidnapping and related offences. After many years of successful operation within its mandates and guidelines, SARS operatives progressed into carrying arms and setting up roadblocks on highways to carry out vital checks, while in plain clothes. With this development, it became difficult for commuters to distinguish between SARS operatives and armed robbers since they also carry weapons and mount roadblocks without uniforms. Within a decade of extending the operations of SARS nationwide, Nigerians started complaining of extortion, arbitrary arrests, intimidation, torture, extrajudicial killings and other accusations of widespread human rights abuses from men of the SARS (Amnesty International, 2016).

The problem of SAR as documented and published by Amnesty International (2016), in one of the SARS detention centres in Abuja, more than 130 youths were detained in overcrowded cells and were regularly subjected to inhuman treatments such as hanging, starvation, beatings, shooting, and mock execution (Malumfashi, 2020). Despite the creation of the Nigeria Police Complaints Response Unit (CRU) in 2015 to address the mounting complaints and public outcry from citizens over the inhuman treatment from SARS operatives, no SARS officer was seen to have been punished for the allegations instead, allegations and accusations of maltreatment and human rights abuses continued to be heard from citizens, civil right groups as well as local and foreign media. Apparently, due to frustration with the failure of the police authorities in addressing the situation, a social media influencer and human rights activist, Segun Awonsanya (known on Twitter @Segalink)- started a campaign on Twitter (a microblogging website) with the hashtag EndSARS (referred to as EndSARS) in 2016 to draw awareness and gather support both locally and internationally.

This hashtag continued to trend on Twitter and gained popularity across other social media sites such as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, WhatsApp, etc. This development

went on for four years until it became a weekly trend as videos, photographs and stories of unlawful arrests, torture, searching of phones and gadgets, extortion and other forms of inhuman treatment were seen on social media. A petition to disband SARS gained 10,195 signatures in 2017 and was forwarded to the National Assembly for necessary action (Ibrahim, 2017), but nothing was done other than verbal condemnation of the activities of SARS. The horrific pictures, videos, stories and experiences shared by victims on social media motivated a few youths, including celebrities, to embark on peaceful protests in Lagos, Abuja, Ibadan, Oshogbo, Benin, Delta, Owerri, Jos Kaduna and Calabar in October, 2020 to attract the attention of the government to stop SARS.

The emergence of a short video on the internet on the 3rd of October 2020, particularly on social media, showing the brutal killing of a young Nigerian in Delta State by men of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), sparked nationwide protests. The new development resurrected the EndSARS has sparked outages, particularly on Twitter (Okon, 2020). While the anger from the Delta State incidents was still fresh, another video emerged on Twitter on Monday, 5th October 2020, of the killing of a 20-year-old musician named Daniel Chibuike in Port Harcourt by men of the SARS without provocation. By Thursday, 8th October 2020, the call for EndSARS had gained momentum.

The foregoing serves as the origin of the EndSARS protests that disrupted economic, political and social activities across the country in 2020. The initial efforts of the police to curtail the protesters through the use of water cannon, tear gas and reported shooting of some protesters in Abuja and Ogbomosho in Oyo State (Reuters, 2020; British Broadcasting Corporation, 2020; Aljazeera, 2020a), further exacerbated the resolve of the protesters as well as attracted many youths who joined from different parts of the country as well as the diaspora. Although several calls were made for the police authorities to disband the SARS unit, or at least punish erring officers, or simply review the operations and activities of the members of SARS, the outcome of the EndSARS protest took the Nigeria Police Force by surprise. By the 14th of October, 2020, it was obvious that the protest had overwhelmed the police formations and the country was on the brink of collapse, both economically and politically.

Soon, the protests spread from Lagos to other urban centres across Southern Nigeria, such as Ogbomosho, Ado Ekiti, Abeokuta, Oshogbo, Abakaliki, Benin City, Akure, Port Harcourt, Enugu, Warri, Asaba, Ughelli, Calabar, Uyo, Onitsha, Owerri, Aba, Umuahia and Yenogoa. One of the strategies adopted by the EndSARS protesters was the blocking of highways and the occupation of strategic locations. The strategy was ostensibly to attract the attention of the government and the international community to listen to their demands, which centered on the disbandment of the SARS and prosecution of officers who had been accused of committing atrocities against the youths.

The EndSARS protests disrupted social, political and economic activities in many parts of the country, especially in southern Nigeria and Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District in

particular. With the news that the Nigeria military had shot dead so many protesters at Lekki Tollgate in Lagos on the night of October 20, 2020, coupled with the pandemic of COVID-19 (Corona Virus Disease 2019), palliatives hidden in warehouses across many cities in southern Nigeria (Nkasi, 2020), the protests took a different dimension, as youths went on rampage looting, vandalizing and burning government buildings, as well as private businesses of politicians and influential personalities. Besides Lagos, Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District was one of the locations most affected by the outcome of the protests, especially Uyo, which was the centre. Having recently emerged from a recession and months of nationwide lockdown to contain the spread of COVID-19, the impact of the EndSARS protests affected the people of Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District economically and socially. Even though the president announced the disbandment of SARS at the beginning of the protests and established the Special Weapon and Tactics (SWAT) unit to replace and tackle the menace of armed robbery, kidnappings and similar violent crimes in the country, the agitations for the end of police brutality went on notwithstanding.

The recent occurrence of the EndSARS protest and the scale of civil unrest with the consequences it generated make it a unique case, warranting further examination. It is noteworthy that such widespread civil unrest has not been witnessed in Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District for many decades. Neither in the state as a phenomenon, research did not specifically explore the impact of the protest and its effect as a whole. Therefore, this study sought to assess the EndSARS protest and the consequences of this action in the Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District in particular and Nigeria in General.

EndSAR Contribution to Protest and Consequences on Lives and Properties

The protest has ignited a mixed reaction from different individuals and among different quarters of the country. The outcome of the protest has been in two ways; there have been several reforms in the Nigerian police force and on the other hand, the atrocities committed by some groups of people in the disguise of the Endsars protest hurt the Nigerian Economy. The destruction of private and public infrastructure and the attack and killings of some of the protesters are the negative consequences of the protest. However, the consequences of the protest have not been negative as the five demands of the Endsars protesters have been addressed by the government and the creation of a Panel of inquiry by the state government to investigate cases of SARS brutality. There has been a drastic decrease in reported cases of police brutality. The greatest outcome of the Endsars protest is the scrapping of SARS by the federal government of Nigeria. On October 17, 2020, the Endsars demonstration was devoid of genuine vigour as sponsored assailants attacked the peaceful protesters. Nationwide, reports emerged regarding the dismantling of numerous paramilitary installations, patrol vehicles, and armoured personnel carriers (APCs) (Nkasi, 2020). Law enforcement officials are among those who have perished due to the protests. A greater number of criminals and cults exploited the

situation to disrupt the state and its populace. Premium Times (2020) recorded that there were 78 fatalities, including 6 police officers, from October 17, 2020, to October 29, 2020. It is alleged that individuals masquerading as protesters during the EndSARS demonstrations in Abia, Edo, and Oyo States stole and vandalized 16 police stations, comprising four in Lagos, six in Edo, one in Osun, one in Ekiti, and one in Abuja-FCT (Wanep News, 2020). The #Endsars protest cast uncertainty on Nigeria's economy, leading many to question its growth. It resulted in delays, disturbances, and the subsequent closure of Lagos, the nation's commercial and economic hub, for two weeks. Individuals lost their lives, residences, livelihoods, and sources of sustenance due to the Endsars protest. Economists have enumerated the immediate challenges that the Endsars protest inflicted on Nigeria's already ailing economy, with significant harm resulting from the destruction of private and public enterprises and assets. According to the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the protest-affected state of Lagos incurred a loss of 700 billion Naira over 12 days, averaging 58 billion Naira per day. The Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (2020) projected that the government incurred a loss of 234 million Naira (18 million Naira a day) in toll income as a result of the 13-day protest. Alongside these losses, the protest witnessed numerous incidents of looting and vandalism, including the following: the obliteration of the Lekki Toll Gate; the devastation of multiple police stations; the incursion into traditional institutions; the wreckage of public and private transportation; and a series of looting and vandalism at various shopping malls within the state (Ochi & Mark, 2021). Economists assert that the demonstration adversely impacted the economy of Lagos State and the nation, resulting in projected billions of dollars in increased insurance premiums (Olubiyi, 2020; Nkasi, 2020). The Endsars protest elicited diverse opinions among the populace, resulting in considerable social, political, and economic upheaval in Nigeria. The Endsars protest evidently exerted a considerable adverse effect on the economy. Primero Transport Services (PTS) Ltd., proprietors of BRT Buses, incurred losses of over N100 million within a mere six days as a result of the protests that have engulfed the state, which boasts Nigeria's largest economy (Abuede, 2020). Likewise, consumers experienced theft of their possessions and burglaries in retail establishments across. Their destruction affected both public and private properties in Lagos, including the Palace of the Oba of Lagos, the AjeromiIfelodun Local Government secretariat, the Oyingbo BRT terminus, the Lagos High Court in Igbosere, the Ojodu Berger BRT terminus, the Lagos State Public Works Corporation in Ojodu Berger, the Vehicle Inspection Office in Ojodu Berger, numerous luxury shops in Surulere, Lagos City Hall, Circle Mall in Lekki, as well as The Nation Newspaper, TVC, and Shoprite Lekki (Ochi & Mark, 2021). A total of 80 buses were incinerated in the flames, with an estimated worth of N3.9 billion (Nairametrics, 2020). The medium-sized BRT buses were valued at \$100,000 each, whereas the larger buses were valued at \$200,000. A fire occurred at 25 police stations in Lagos State: Amukoko, Orile, Ikotun, Layeni, Ilasamaja, Elemoro, Gbagada, Igando, Onilekere, Makinde, Onipanu, Cele,

IsokokoAjah, EbuteEro, Alade, Pen-Cinema, Igbo-Elerin, Makinyo, Makoko, Daleko, Asahun, Shibiri, Amuwo-Odofoin, Anti-Kidnapping, Surulere. Aside from those that were incinerated, the following police stations were defaced: Ojo, Mowo, Ojodu, Morogbo and PPL (LCCI, 2020). Residents of Plateau State reported the destruction of stores and banks. Participants in the Endsars demonstration in Enugu disrupted all state-wide activities. Criminals masquerading as protesters attacked at least twenty-one police divisions in Anambra state, igniting fires in seven of those divisions, as reported by SP Haruna Mohammed, the spokesperson for the Anambra State Police Command. The Zik Statue at the DMGS roundabout in Onitsha was defaced, while the Idemili North Local Government Secretariat and the Federal High Court in Ogidi were among the other governmental facilities that were destroyed or incinerated. The regions of Ogun, Kano, Abuja, Plateau, and Oyo reported incidents of looting and casualties. A bunch of youths looted stuff and incinerated multiple residences and enterprises while rampaging through the suburbs of Kano state. Reports indicated the presence of several incinerated vehicles (Fagbo, 2020). On October 11, 2020, President Muhammadu Buhari declared the dissolution of SARS in reaction to the extensive demands for its disbandment on social media, utilising the hashtag #ENDSARS. The disbandment of the unit and the retraining and reassignment of its officers to a newly established task force were further aspects of his announcement. Protests and social media campaigns continued, with numerous individuals asserting that the disbandment of SARS was insufficient and advocating for additional reforms, including holding officers accountable for previous misconduct and enhancing their wages to mitigate corruption. Military and security personnel have reportedly killed numerous protestors since the government initiated a crackdown on protests in mid-October (Congressional Research Centre, 2020).

Objective of the Study

The main objective of this study was to investigate the consequences of EndSARS protest in Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District of Nigeria. The specific objectives were to:

Determine whether EndSARS protest contributed to the destruction of properties in Akwa Ibom North Senatorial District of Nigeria.

Examine if EndSARS protest led to the loss of lives in Akwa Ibom North Senatorial District of Nigeria.

Research Questions

The following questions were posed to address the research problem:

- (i) To what extent did EndSARS protest contribute to the destruction of properties in Akwa Ibom North Senatorial District of Nigeria?

- (ii) How did EndSARS protest lead to the loss of lives in Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District of Nigeria?

Methodology

This study adopted Ex-post facto research design. The study majorly focused on Uyo, which is the epicenter of the nine local government areas that make up Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District (AKNESD), also known as Uyo Senatorial District.

There are 5,530 establishments doing business in Uyo, where the EndSARS protest took place. Some of the affected establishments were public and others private. Records at the Uyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry indicate that approximately 430 establishments are public and 5,100 are private companies. Facts revealed that the establishments affected by the EndSARS protest were both public and private (TangSio Radio and Television, Friday, October 2020).

A sample size of 96 respondents was used in this study. This number comprised staff members of the 12 organizations selected for the study. The organizations include: Anchor Insurance Company, Access Bank, LG Electronic office, De Choice Fast Food, Akwa Ibom Broadcasting Corporation (AKBC), Techno House by Ikpa Road, the Akwa Ibom State Primary Healthcare Development Agency (AKPHCDA), the State Secretariat of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Icon Mobile, Cold Stone Creamery, Domino's Pizza, and Kilimanjaro.

The purposive sampling and snowball technique were adopted for the study. While the purposive sampling technique was used to select the study organizations, the snowball technique was used to select the respondents. The reason was that the number of organizations affected during the EndSARS protest was small and easily identified during the data collection. Adopting the purposive sampling technique assisted the researcher in identifying and selecting the study organizations from the appropriate sampling frame. On the contrary, the respondents or study participants were nominated and selected from their respective organizations or workplaces using the snowball technique. The data used in this study were collected using interviews and a desk review. The data were presented in tables, charts, and pictures, and explained in simple percentages to illustrate the consequences of the EndSARS protest in Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District. The details from the review were summarised and used in the discussion of findings. The data collected in the study were presented in tables, charts, and pictures, and explained in simple percentages to illustrate the consequences of the EndSARS protest in Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District. The transcribed details from the interviews were summarised and used in the discussion of findings.

Data Analysis

In this section, the qualitative data collected from the organization are presented in pictures and discussed to help answer the research questions. The data were extracted from records at the study organizations that were affected by or attacked during the EndSARS protest

in the Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District. These data were used to evaluate the experiences of the organizations vis-à-vis the consequences of the protest on the organizations. The pictures were obtained from the organizations during field work.

Analysis of Research Question 1: To what extent did the EndSARS protest contribute to the destruction of properties in Akwa Ibom North Senatorial District of Nigeria?

Scene of the Attack on the Administrative Building of the Akwa

Ibom Broadcasting Corporation (AKBC) Along Udo-Udoma Avenue, Uyo,



**Here lies the remains of AKBC
office at Udo Udoma Avenue, Uyo**

**Is this what we want? Can
we move forward like this?**

Let's join hands to **#SecureAkwaibom**
from hoodlums and criminals.


#SECUREAKWAIBOM

**Picture 1: Scene of the Attack at Akwa Ibom Broadcasting Corporation, Uyo,
Source: Field work (2025)**

Picture 1 is a display of the scene of the attack on the administrative building of the Akwa Ibom Broadcasting Corporation along UdoUdoma Avenue, Uyo. The picture gives information concerning the damage or destruction of properties that are queried by research question one which sought to find out if the EndSARS protest contributed to the destruction of properties in Akwa Ibom North Senatorial District of Nigeria. As indicated in the picture, the whole buildings were razed down with all the properties within the premises of the Corporation

Display of Some of the Burnt Vehicles Parked Inside The Office Building of Akwa Ibom Broadcasting Corporation (AKBC) in Uyo.



**Picture 2: Burnt Vehicles at of Akwa Ibom Broadcasting Corporation (AKBC)
Source: Field work (2025)**

Picture 2 also shows all the burnt vehicles parked outside and inside the office building which was completely consumed by the fire. The multi-billion-naira Ibom Specialist Hospital was one of the public establishments targeted during the mayhem but could not be destroyed due to the presence of heavily armed security personnel. Aside from burning down the buildings, the vandals successfully looted items at the Akwa Ibom State Broadcasting Corporation (AKBC) along UdoUdoma Avenue, the Anchor Insurance House and Access Bank building, and ATM Plaza. The scenario communicated by the pictures and data substantiates the argument that the Endsars protest contributed to the massive destruction of properties in Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District, also known as Uyo Senatorial District. Other evidence from records at the disposal of the print and electronic media confirms that public facilities and private businesses in Uyo were attacked, vandalized and looted by hoodlums following the death of a protester on Barracks Road allegedly shot by personnel of the Nigerian Correctional Service. (Tan Sio Radio & Television, 2020).

Picture 3: Akwa Ibom State Primary Healthcare Development Agency (AKPHCDA) in Uyo, Guttled by Fire along Barracks Road (WBW).



Picture 3: Akwa Ibom State Primary Healthcare Development Agency (AKPHCDA)
Source: Field work (2025)

**The State Secretariat of the All People Progressive Party (APC) At Ikot Ekpene Road,
Destroyed by Fire.**



**Figure: 4 State Secretariat of the All People Progressive Party, Destroyed By Fire.
Source: Field work (2025)**

Analysis of Research Question 2:

This question queries thus, to what extent did the EndSARS protest contribute to the loss of lives in Akwa Ibom North Senatorial District of Nigeria?

Scene of protesters at Ibom Plaza, where the violence erupted after hoodlums hijacked the ENDSARS protest in Uyo.



Source: Field work (2025)



Source: Field work (2025)

Scenes of received lootings properties, vandalism and carting away of properties at Techno House, Icon Mobile, Cold Creamery, Domino's Pizza, all at Ikot Ekpene Road and Kilimanjaro Fast Food at Oron Road. At the LG showroom on Ikot Ekpene Road, electronic

appliances were carted away, while others that could not be moved were vandalised. Icon Mobile, Cold Stone Creamery and Domino's Pizza, and Kilimanjaro were not left out of the plundering. As a result of these rampages and inhumane actions by the hoodlums, the businesses could not continue in their normal operation and so much profit/ income was lost.

Discussion of Findings

EndSARS Protest and Destruction of Properties in Akwa Ibom North Senatorial District of Nigeria against the backdrop of the destruction of public and private properties and businesses in the wake of the EndSARS protests after the Lekki massacre of EndSars protesters, businesses have been counting their losses while economic experts have listed the immediate challenges the crisis has thrown against Nigeria's struggling economy. These losses were accompanied by several lootings and vandalism at several locations in Uyo, including, Banks, state-owned buildings and facilities, the setting ablaze of several establishments, shopping malls, fast food shops, phone shops and other facilities by some hoodlums who are said to have hijacked the peaceful protests to create chaos and a state of anarchy across the federation.

The protest was managed or controlled by the use of force and ideology. One of the vital steps taken by the government to manage the protest was the Disbandment of SARS and the meeting of the five-point agenda of the protesters. However, it must be stated that protest management in a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and heterogeneous country like Nigeria is a difficult task and it involves the presence of active leadership that shares the sentiments of the protesters. There are several ways the government can handle protests. In the case of the ENDSARS protest, different methods were adopted by the government in handling and managing the protest. The protesters made some requests which were met by the government but based on the previous occurrence where the government failed to implement what they promised to do the protesters continued protesting which led to counter-protests against the ENDSARS protesters, the unleashing of thugs on the peaceful protesters by unscrupulous elements and the eventual use of force by the government. Findings showed that both coercive and non-coercive methods were adopted by the government in managing the protest, which was deemed undemocratic and unlawful. Part of the Non-coercive method was the urgent need to resolve the lingering ASUU strike, which was a step to move the youth (students) away from the street to the classroom. There were instances where the bank accounts of individuals were frozen as well. The findings of this study support that of Fagbo (2020) that the management of the ENDSARS protest by the federal government was flawed.

EndSARS Protest and Loss of Lives in Akwa Ibom North Senatorial District of Nigeria

The EndSARS protest led to the loss of many lives and properties across Nigeria. Findings showed that past protests generated the killings of many who were involved. The Aba Women's Riot, also known as the Women's War, was a major anti-colonial revolt by women

in southeastern Nigeria. In November 1929, thousands of Igbo women marched against the British colonial authorities' imposition of taxes on women, a policy seen as exploitative and unjust. The women used their traditional practice of "sitting on a man" to express their displeasure, which included singing and dancing around the houses of warrant chiefs and colonial officials. The protests, which lasted until early 1930, resulted in the deaths of about 50 women but forced the colonial government to abandon the tax and revise its policies regarding women. Also, in 1949, Enugu coal miners went on strike to demand better working conditions and higher wages. The strike, which began in November, quickly escalated when British colonial police opened fire on the striking workers at the Iva Valley mine on November 18, killing 21 miners and injuring 51 others. This tragic event intensified nationalist sentiments and fueled the struggle for Nigeria's independence, which was eventually achieved in 1960. In Lagos State, during the SARS protest, which took place in October 2020, several youths were killed in Lagos as reported by BBC News (BBC News, 2020a). All these scenarios demonstrated in this study that EndSARS protest led to the killings of many youths and even the police officers who were involved.

Summary

The main objective of this study was to investigate the consequences of EndSARS protest in Akwa Ibom North East Senatorial District of Nigeria. The specific objectives were to: determine whether EndSARS protest contributed to the destruction of properties in Akwa Ibom North Senatorial District of Nigeria and examined if EndSARS protest led to the loss of lives in Akwa Ibom North Senatorial District of Nigeria. The study adopted the ex-post-facto research design. The design typically employs interviews and desk reviews to gather information. The collection data was then analyzed to conclude, identify patterns and make generalizations to determine the consequences of EndSARS protest in Akwa Ibom North-East Senatorial District (AKNESD). The study mainly focused on Uyo. The data collected were presented in tables, pie charts and bar charts and explained in simple percentages. The findings of the study were discussed, conclusions given and recommendations made accordingly.

Conclusion

The EndSARS protest in Nigeria was a significant socio-political movement that emerged as a response to police brutality, specifically targeting the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS). The protest, which began as a peaceful demonstration, escalated due to inadequate governmental response, poor crisis management strategies, and violent crackdowns by security forces. The widespread mobilization of youths, both online and offline, demonstrated the power of social media in modern activism and governance. The government's handling of the protest raised critical questions about democratic governance, human rights, and law enforcement accountability in Nigeria. While the dissolution of SARS was a notable

outcome, broader concerns regarding police reform, justice for victims, and systemic governance failures remained unresolved. Additionally, the protest's aftermath, marked by reported human rights violations, economic disruptions, and international condemnation, emphasized the need for institutional reforms and improved civic engagement mechanisms.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations were made that:

- i. The Inspector General of Police (IGP), in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, should liaise with the budget office to improve the budgetary allocation for the police. This is intended to enable the police to acquire non-lethal modern riot control equipment for effective management of future protests and civil unrest in the country.
- ii. The IGP should graciously approve an increase in the number of personnel during the recruitment exercise, a change in the qualification for engagement, as well as adequate training and retraining of personnel. This will enable the force to improve its manpower capacity building capable of managing future protests.

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