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The Approaching Storm: **The Cost of Political Tension, Potential for Violence and Violence Cases in Ondo State.**

Nigeria Election
Violence Report
Factsheet

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#OndoDecides2020

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40

Cases of **Potential for Violence**
between June - August 22, 2020

14

Cases of **Violence** Incidents
between June - August 22, 2020

Potential for violence

The build up to the 10th October, 2020 Governorship election in Ondo state has been characterized with political tension and the political terrain has been tensed following the violence that erupted in the Local Government Elections in the state. The happenings in the state have revealed that more sensitization and advocacy activities need to be done to mitigate electoral violence most especially during the forthcoming governorship elections.

The Nigeria Election Violence Report (NEVR) Project led by Kimpact Development Initiative (KDI) with the support of the International Foundations for Electoral Systems (IFES) tracked and documented potential for violence and violence cases, as shown in the table below.

DATE	POTENTIAL FOR VIOLENCE	WHERE IT HAPPENED	PV CATEGORY	AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS	POTENTIAL IMPACT
June 21, 2020	Ondo State Deputy Gov. prevented from leaving the government house. https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/398771-ondo-2020-deputy-governor-barred-from-leaving-govt-house-with-official-vehicle.html	Government House, Akure Ondo state	Intimidation and Harassment	Mr. Agboola Ajayi, the state deputy Governor.	Tension
June 21, 2020	The Deputy Governor defection to PDP. https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/398814-updated-ondo-deputy-governor-dumps-apc-for-pdp.html	Ward 2, Apoi in Ese-Odo Local Government Area of Ondo State.	Party Internal Crisis	Political party	Defection of deputy governor's supporters Intraparty brawl and rivalry
6th July	Erstwhile SSG in Ondo State threatens to spit on the state governor if he lies against him again On air (interview with Crest FM Ondo State) Hate Speech Gov. Akeredolu, Hon. Ifedayo Abegunde (formal Ondo State Government SSG)	On Air (Crest FM) Akure, Ondo state	Discriminatory Speech	Gov. Akeredolu	Harassment Intimidation
July 7, 2020	The deputy governor's impeachment issue. https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/more-news/401696-ondo-deputy-governor-nine-lawmakers-dump-impeachment-plan-back-ajayi.html	Ondo state House of Assembly, Akure Ondo State	Party Internal Crisis	Mr. Alfred Ajayi, the state deputy Governor and 3 law makers who were suspended.	Tension Defection of deputy governor's supporters
16th July	Gov. Yahaya Bello called the most notorious and deadly votes robber by Mr. Yemi Akintomide, Director of Media and Communication for Mr. Jimi Odumayo, one of the APC governorship aspirants. https://rovingreporters.com.ng/2020/07/16/ondo-2020-apc-aspirant-attacks-yahaya-bello-says-kogi-gova-votes-robber/	Facebook	Hate Speech	Gov. Yahaya Bello	Harassment
July 10	Crisis rocks Ondo PDP over allegation of financial inducement of Ad Hoc delegate committee. https://www.24reports.com.ng/2020/07/crisis-rocks-ondo-pdp-as-members.html	Akure, Ondo State	Interparty crisis	Political party	Intraparty brawl
July 10	Another APC chieftain quits party in Ondo. https://punchng.com/ondo-apc-chairman-dumps-party/	Ese-Odo LGA Ondo State	Interparty crisis	Political party	Mass defection of other members Intraparty rivalry
July 18	The choice of Agboola Ajayi as my Deputy was an error- Akeredolu. https://guardian.ng/news/i-made-a-wrong-choice-in-ajayi-as-deputy-says-akeredolu/	Igbekebo, the headquarters of Ese-Odo LGA	Discriminatory speech	Mr. Agboola Ajayi, the state deputy governor	Brawl within the cabinet and supporters

DATE	POTENTIAL FOR VIOLENCE	WHERE IT HAPPENED	PV CATEGORY	AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS	POTENTIAL IMPACT
July 19	Ondo Deputy Governor replies Akeredolu, says he is frustrated. https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/07/ondo-2020-im-not-responsible-for-your-failure-defected-deputy-replies-akeredolu/	Akure, Ondo State	Discriminatory speech	Gov. Akeredolu	Tension Brawl amidst the cabinet and citizen
August 12	Accord Party collapse its structure to pull its weight behind the PDP candidate in the upcoming October governorship election. https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/ssouth-west/408550-ondo-2020-accord-party-collapses-structure-for-jegede.html	Akure, Ondo State	Mass Defection	Political party	Intraparty rivalry
August 10	The leadership of Zenith Labour Party pulls their weight behind the re-election of Governor Rotimi Akeredolu. https://thenationonlineng.net/ondo-2020-zlp-executives-declare-support-for-akeredolu/	Akure, Ondo State	Interparty crisis	Political party	Intraparty rivalry
29/07/2020	PDP political campaign/ defection	Igarra, Ondo state	Defection from APC to PDP		Tension.
12/08/2020	Accord Party collapse its structure to pull its weight behind the PDP candidate in the upcoming October governorship election. https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/ssouth-west/408550-ondo-2020-accord-party-collapses-structure-for-jegede.html	Akure, Ondo State	Mass Defection	Political party	Intraparty rivalry
20/08/2020	The decamping of some members of ZLP and PDP to APC in Ondo West Local Government Area of the state https://www.legit.ng/1358071-ondo-election-zlp-adp-members-defect-apc.html	Ward 5 Ondo West	Mass Defection	Political party	Defection of party members to another party Intraparty brawl and rivalry
20/08/2020	The alleged case of tearing of Jegede, PDP governorship candidates campaign posters in Owo LG Area which is Gov. Akeredolu's LGA. https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/ssouth-west/409898-ondo-2020-jegede-16accuses-akeredolu-of-blocking-billboards-posters.html	Owo LG	Destruction of property	Political party	Tension
21/08/2020	We will use thugs to rig Ondo election says Kekemeke, the former APC Chairman in Ondo State https://www.starnews.com.ng/we-will-use-thugs-to-rig-ondo-election-says-kekemeke-in-a-leaked-video/	Akure, Ondo State	Hate Speech	Political party	Tension and Voter Apathy
22/08/2020	In Ese Odo LGA, election materials for the local government election in APO I ward1 was hijacked and taken to unknown location by Akinwunmi Sowore former caretaker chairman of Ese-Odo.	Ese Odo LGA, Ondo State	Election Materials Snatching	Citizen/Voters	Tension and voting activity disrupted
22/08/2020	In Akure North A, Ward 5 unit 8 armed Thugs destroyed ballot boxes and blocked the roads during the LGA election.	Akure North	Destruction of Ballot Box	Citizen/Voters	Tension and voting activity disrupted
22/08/2020	Hijacked of ballot boxes by Honourable Saka Yusuf, the Commissioner for Works with his ordaleys and thugs at unit 4 ward 6 during the LGA election.	Akure North	Ballot Box Snatching	Citizen/Voters	Tension and Voting activity disrupted
22/08/2020	Late arrival of election materials at Akunu Akoko in Akoko North East LGA. As at 11:51am election materials were nowhere to be found and the election was rescheduled to 1:00pm.	Akoko North East	Late Arrival of Election Materials	Citizen/Voters	Voter Apathy, Tension, Voter Agitation
22/08/2020	Ballot boxes were snatched and scattered at Korowa Akoko in Oka Akoko Community.	Akoko South West	Ballot Box Snatching	Citizen/Voters	Tension and disruption of Voting process
22/08/2020	As at 10:24am, election materials were not available at Ileoluji ward 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 while voters were waiting to perform their franchise.	Ileoluji/Okeigbo LGA	Late Arrival of Election Materials	Citizen/Voters	Voter Apathy, Tension, Voter Agitation
22/08/2020	As at 10:50am, Okeigbo LG voting units were rowdy as ballot papers are not being released to Adhoc staff by the election officer due insufficient election materials taken to the LGA.	Ileoluji/Okeigbo LGA	Insufficient Election Materials	Citizen/Voters	Voter Apathy, Tension, Voter Agitation

DATE	POTENTIAL FOR VIOLENCE	WHERE IT HAPPENED	PV CATEGORY	AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS	POTENTIAL IMPACT
22/08/2020	At Ileoluji, the voting process was concluded early around 1:07pm due to disruption by Okeigbo ADC supporters as a result of no election at Oke-igbo. The security official together with ODIEC officials escaped from the scene.	Ondo East	Disruption of Voting activity	citizen/Voters/ Elections officials	Tension and Agitation
22/08/2020	Snatching of ballot boxes at Olufemisoro, General road in Ondo East	Ondo East	Ballot Box Snatching	Citizen/ Voters	Tension and Voting activity disrupted
22/08/2020	Snatching of ballot paper at Ota Osan, Ondo East LGA	Ondo East	Ballot Box Snatching	Citizen/ Voters	Tension and disruption of Voting process
22/08/2020	Snatching of ballot box by unidentified political thugs at Igbo oOa ward 1 unit 3.	Ondo East	Ballot Box Snatching	Citizen/ Voters	Tension and disruption of Voting process
22/08/2020	Snatching of ballot boxes in Igba community	Ondo East	Ballot Box Snatching	Citizen/ Voters	Tension and disruption of Voting process
22/08/2020	Snatching of ballot box at Bolorunduro Ondo East by APC political thugs.	Ondo East	Ballot Box Snatching	Citizen/ Voters	Tension and disruption of Voting process
22/08/2020	Sporadic shooting by APC political thugs shoots to chase voters at Fagbo/ Tepo Area and thumb printed the ballot papers themselves in the presence of security officials.	Ondo East	Election Rigging	Citizen/ Voters	Tension and Threat to Voter's right
22/08/2020	Akereja Kehinde, the ADC councillorship candidate in ward 3 igbara oke II stepped down and joins APC during the election process.	Ifedore	Defection	Political party	Disruption of Election process and Voter Apathy
22/08/2020	Vote Buying at ilu-titun ward 1 Okitipupa LGA	Okitipupa	Vote Buying	Citizen/ Voters	Threat to Voters' right
22/08/2020	At Ikoya ward 6, unit 005, AAC political thugs disrupted the election process and snatched ballot boxes.	Okitipupa	Ballot Box Snatching	Citizen/ Voters	Tension and disruption of Voting process
22/08/2020	Snatching of Ballot box in ward 8 unit 15 in Ondo town.	Ondo West	Ballot Box Snatching	Citizen/ Voters	Tension and disruption of Voting process
22/08/2020	In Unit 1 ward 1, In Ondo west LGA, Ballot boxes were hijacked by hoodlums led by APC councillorship candidate	Ondo West	Ballot Box Snatching	Citizen/ Voters	Tension and disruption of Voting process
22/08/2020	Snatching and Scattering of Ballot boxes in Oke Agula ward 9 by the APC thugs.	Ondo West	Ballot Box Snatching	Citizen/ Voters	Tension and disruption of Voting process
22/08/2020	Late Arrival of Electoral officers at Tanimowo in Ugbe Akoko P.U11 Ugbe ward2	Akoko North East	Late commencement of election	Citizen/ Voters	Low voters turn out
22/08/2020	In Oke Aro Ward 8, Unit 4 arguments ensue between SDP and APC party agents which resulted into a fight, thereby disrupting the voting process. No security personnel was available as at the time of the argument	Akure South	Harassment/ Intimidation	Citizen/ Voters	Disruption of Election Process
22/08/2020	Political Thugs disrupted the election at Idogun, Ose local government area.	Ose LGA	Disruption by party thugs	Citizen/ Voters	Disruption of Election Process
22/08/2020	Hijacking of Election Materials at Oge Okeagbe Akoko	Akoko North West	Hijacking of Election Materials	Citizen/ Voters	Tension/ No Election Conducted

Verified Incidents of Electoral Violence in Ondo state

DATE	INCIDENCE OF VIOLENCE	WHERE IT HAPPENED	TYPE OF VIOLENCE	VICTIMS	PERPETRA-TOR	IMPACT
21/06/2020	Hoodlums attacked political meeting at Igboroko , Owo local government	Igboroko , Owo LG Ondo State	Group clash/ Destruction of properties.	People and property	APC faction supporter	Tension/ Economic and financial loss
20-07-2020	Journalist of the Nation Newspaper assaulted during APC primary election	The dome, Igbatoro road Akure	Physical harm/ torture	One man(- journalist)	Security Official attached to Governor Yahaya Bello.	Injury
22-07-2020	Persons caught with thumb printed ballot papers of one of the governorship aspirant (Mr. Agboola Ajayi) beaten by angry mob	Akure, Ondo State	Physical harm	2 persons (male)	Angry Mob	2 person injured
26-07-2020	Attack on students of OAUSTECH	Okitipupa, Ondo State	Assault and battery	OAUSTECH Students	Party Supporters (Aketi Student support group)	Persons injured
18-08-2020	Group clash between APC and SDP Supporters ahead of local government election in Idanre LG	Idanre local government area.	Group clash, physical harm/ torture and destruction of posters.	8 men and SDP cam-paign posters	Unknown APC men.	Campaign ac-tivity disrupted and injury.
19-08-2020	Reprisal attack on APC supporters in Idanre.	Idanre local Government Area.	Attempted murder, physical harm/torture and Destruction of property.	SDP support-ers	APC supporters	Injury and Economic/fi-nancial loss.
20-08-2020	Attack on ADC supporter by APC supporters in Ondo town while going for campaign rally.	Ondo town.	Physical harm/ torture, Destruc-tion of property	ADC sup-porters and property.	APC supporters	Economic/ financial loss, Campaign activity dis-rupted.
22/08/2020	An argument and fight ensued due to unacceptability of election result by ADC party agent supporters after the announcement of the election result around 7:27pm in Oba Akoko.	Oba Akoko, Akoko South-west	Group Clash	Both party supporter	Both party sup-porter	Tension
22/08/2020	During the conduct of the LGA election at Oke-Agunla Ward 9, Voters had a clash with political thugs who attempted to steal the ballot box.	Oke-Agunla Ward 9, Ondo West.	Group Clash	Voters	Political thugs	Persons injured and Tension
22/08/2020	An argument ensued between SDP and APC Party agents in Oke Aro ward 8 unit 4 of Akure North which resulted into a fight, thereby disrupted the voting process, and no security personnel was on ground to mitigate the incidence.	Oke Aro, Akure South	Group Clash	Political Par-ty Supporter	Political Party Supporter	Tension
22/08/2020	At igboba ward 5, unit 6, a fight ensued which lead to the youth of the community beating themselves with charm and denied the electoral officials access to count the votes.	Igboba, Akure North	Group Clash	Political party supporter and commu-nity youth	Political party supporter and community youth	Disruption of Vote counting process and Tension
22/08/2020	During the LG election at Ijare, a group clash between party supporters ensued.	Ijare, Ifedore	Group Clash	Political par-ty supporters	Political party supporters	Tension
22/08/2020	Report of Violence by NEVR Monitor in ilara-mokin town in Ifedore LG during the LG election.	Ilara-Mokin Ifedore LG	Group Clash	Political par-ty supporters	Political party supporters	Tension
22/08/2020	Destruction of election materials and the vehicle carrying the materials for APOI ward 2 in Ese Odo LG and a clash between the community youth and the thugs	Ese Odo LG, Ondo State	Destruction of property/ Physi-cal harm	unknown persons	Election Mate-rials and a bus/ Voters	Several persons injured, Voting disrupted, Voter Apathy and Tension

Impact

Following the waves of indiscriminate cross-carpeting and defections by political actors from one political party to another, Ondo State has experienced several incidences of violence and potential for violence emanating from intra and inter party crisis, defection of party chieftain, intimidation, group clashes, destruction of properties and hate speeches.

The record of incidences of violence in the just concluded Local Government Council election

in Ondo State was high and alarming. Ondo state citizens are becoming uneasy about the upcoming governorship election on the 10th of October 2020. This forthcoming governorship in Ondo state election might experience high Voter Apathy because most citizens believe the violence they experience during the Local Government election is likely a show of what to expect in the governorship election.

Recommendations

- Intense peace advocacy need to be done by Civil Society Organizations to forestall these potentials for violence which may escalate to violence.
- Civil Society Organizations and Development partners should start seeing capacity development for political leaders on strategic communication as necessary, this will aid campaigning to be issue-based instead of hate speech. Also, there is a need to develop the capacity of political leaders on conflict resolution, beyond and during an election. Most of the happenings in Ondo state are as a result of fallout and inability to be able to resolve conflict within the parties.
- Political actors should also play by the rules and desist from heating the polity.
- Political parties and candidates should also embrace peace and preach peace to their followers.
- Citizens should be sensitized on the implications of Voting buying on the development of their communities
- There is a need for INEC to engage key stakeholders / actors to elicit their commitment to peaceful election.
- INEC should partner with CSO/CBOs in

Ondo state to amplify its voter education. This voter education exercise should also include peace messaging.

- INEC should plan effectively to avoid any logistic challenges. Most Ondo state indigenes are resentful due to the late arrival of election materials in some wards at the local government election. Moreso, it was perceived that many do not know the electoral management body for the local election is different from INEC
- Election Security Control Center should be proactive in communications towards having an appropriate and swift response team for intervention on issues of violence, if any, erupt.
- Election Security Control Center should also popularize their dedicated hotlines for the elections amidst the citizen so that citizens can call in to give them information as regards security.
- All stakeholders should intensify effort to mitigate electoral violence because of its effect on women and persons with disabilities, as it hinders them from participating actively in the electoral process.

About NEVR

The Nigeria Election Violence Report (NEVR) is a project led by Kimpact Development Initiative (KDI) and supported by the International Foundation for Electoral System (IFES) which is aimed at increasing awareness of and accountability for electoral violence through the Civil Society Organization (CSO) conflict monitoring, public education and advocacy in Nigeria. It is a holistic, human-centered approach to support local partners on their efforts to monitor, mitigate and share information on electoral violence in order to provide an impartial voice on electoral violence through citizen observation with the ultimate goal of ending the menace of electoral violence by documenting and publishing disaggregated electoral violence data. It approaches electoral violence by quantifying it through in-depth research and data gathering from trained monitors and citizen observers.



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