



HUMAN RIGHT POLL

**Nigeria Police and Government Officials Mostly Blamed
for Human Rights Violation.**

December 2019



HUMAN RIGHT POLL

Nigeria Police and Government Officials Mostly Blamed for Human Rights Violation.

83%

of Nigerians polled believe that human rights violation is prevalent in Nigeria

NW-87%

SW-78%

NE-88%

SE-78%

NC-78%

SS-89%

85%

81%



Male



Female

32%

of Nigerians indicated that their rights have been infringed upon in the past

28%

Right to freedom of movement

24%

Right to peaceful assembly and association

16%

Right to life

9%

Right to freedom of speech

9%

Right to dignity of human person

8%

Right to fair hearing

7%

right to freedom of expression and the press

2%

Others



Violators

Police
30%

Government Officials
22%

Family & Friends
17%

Employers
11%

Others
25%

75%

of Nigerians indicated that they do not report cases of human rights violation.

of the **25%** who reported their incidence(s) of Human Rights Violation, they reported to:



61% Police



28% Court



12% Human Right Organisation



8% Public Complaint commission



2% NGO



2% Village Heads



Recommendations

62%

Human right activists should not be threatened by security personnel.

15%

Create public awareness on people's right.

13%

Enforce laws against human right violators.

8%

Judiciary should be firm in social justice.

2%

Citizens should stop giving bribe.

HUMAN RIGHTS POLL RESULT RELEASE

The Police and other Government Officials Mostly Blamed for Human Rights Violation in Nigeria

Abuja, Nigeria. December 10th, 2019 – NOIPolls joins the world to commemorate the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Day which is observed annually across the world on 10th December. The aim of this campaign is to draw people’s attention to the issues surrounding their human rights irrespective of who or where they are in the world. In commemoration of the World Human Rights Day, NOIPolls conducted a public opinion poll to gauge the awareness and perception of Nigerians regarding their fundamental human rights.

It is important to note that during the course of the survey, most Nigerians could not fully comprehend the term “Human Rights” until it was explained to them. For instance, when asked for their understanding of “Human Rights”, most respondents spontaneously ascribed it to right to basic amenities, right to good road, right to good employment and the right to some sort of social safety-net provided by the government. However, upon clear explanation, 86 percent of the respondents claimed to be aware of their basic human rights.

The poll results also revealed that most Nigerians (83 percent) believe that human right violation is prevalent in the country. For instance, 32 percent of Nigerians interviewed disclosed that their rights have been infringed upon while few claimed that they know people whose rights have been infringed on in the past. Interestingly, respondents who stated that their right to freedom of movement, right to peaceful assembly and association, right to life, right to freedom of speech etc. had been violated before reported that the Police and government officials were mostly responsible for the violation of these rights. It is rather worrisome to note that the institutions and agencies of government that were established to protect and defend these human rights are the ones being blamed for human rights violation in Nigeria.

More findings revealed that most victims (75 percent) of human rights violation in Nigeria do not report violations committed against them. It is pertinent to note that the constitution empowers “any person who alleges any infraction ‘in relation to him or her’” to apply to the High Court for redress. However, during the course of this survey, some respondents lamented that they do not report such cases mainly due to lack of trust in the law enforcement agencies.

There is a need for the sensitization of the citizenry on the fundamental human rights through seminars, academic works and books that portray such rights as recommended by 15 percent of the respondents. Sensitization campaigns involving religious and traditional institutions, should at intervals, be carried out to educate or enlighten their subjects on the scope of their rights and how to seek redress when such rights are violated.

Given that the police and government officials are the biggest culprit as revealed by the poll, it is therefore, imperative for a routine retraining and reorientation of law enforcement officers across all cadres and government officials on what constitutes human rights as part of efforts to protect the masses. Finally, as advocated by 13 percent of the respondents, violators should be diligently prosecuted to serve as a deterrent to others and this could be achieved rapidly by putting modalities in place for the proper enforcement of the laws (National Human Rights

Act, 2010) that ensure that Human Rights are protected and promoted across the country. These are some of the key findings from the **Human Rights Poll** conducted in the week commencing 2nd December, 2019.

Background

The international Day to commemorate the annual World Human Rights Day is an annual event to celebrate the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR), a milestone document proclaiming the inalienable rights which everyone is inherently entitled to as a human being regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other orientations, national or social origin, property, birth or other status¹.

To a large extent, the human rights the human race is entitled to is still being largely infringed upon by individuals, parastatals, organizations, government, policies etc. The United Declaration on Human Rights recognizes that no human shall be held in slavery or servitude, but slave trade is still dominant in the world. The document also recognizes the right to free education in the elementary stage, but a lot of children are still wandering streets in different parts of the world uneducated.

The theme for this year's celebration is "Youth standing up for Human Rights" which recognizes the power of the youth in creating an all-inclusive environment for all regardless of gender, social status, religion, orientation etc. Youths have often been marginalized in decision making because of their age but they have always been at the forefront of grassroots mobilization towards positive change and sustainable development.

This year's theme seeks to celebrate the potential of youth as constructive agents of change, amplify their voices, and engage a broad range of global audiences in the promotion and protection of rights. In light of this, NOIPolls conducted a public opinion poll to gauge the awareness of Nigerians regarding their fundamental human rights, their perception on prevalence and if any has been violated as well as the ways to reduce it.

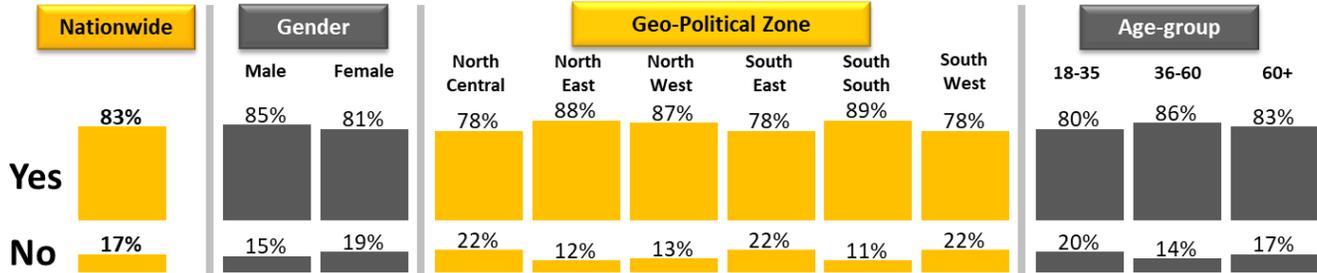
Survey Findings

The first question sought to gauge human rights awareness in Nigeria and the result revealed that an overwhelming majority of Nigerians claimed (86 percent) to be aware of their basic human rights.

Furthermore, findings from the poll also revealed that the issue of human rights violation is prevalent in Nigeria as indicated by a larger share of the respondents interviewed.

¹ <https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

In your opinion, do you think human right violation is prevalent in Nigeria?

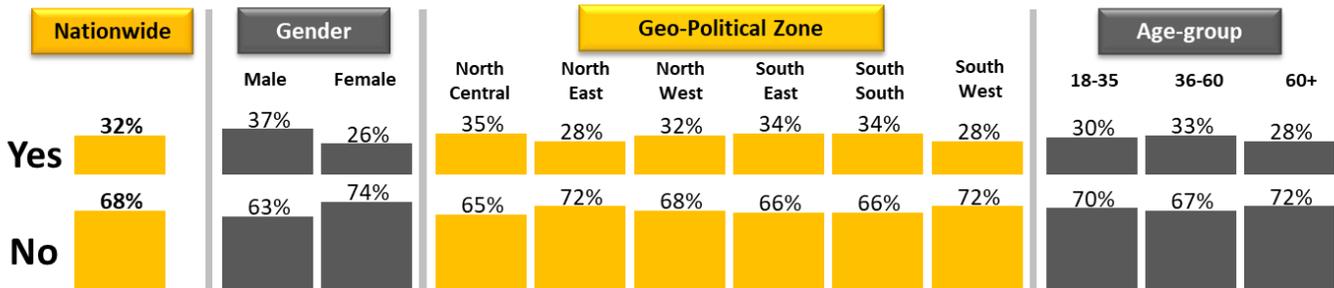


Source: NOIPolls – December 2019

With regard to infringement, 32 percent of the Nigerians disclosed that their human rights have been infringed upon before and they are more male (37 percent) than female (26 percent) respondent who share this view. Analysis on geo-political zone showed that the North-Central zone constitute the highest number of Nigerians in this category.

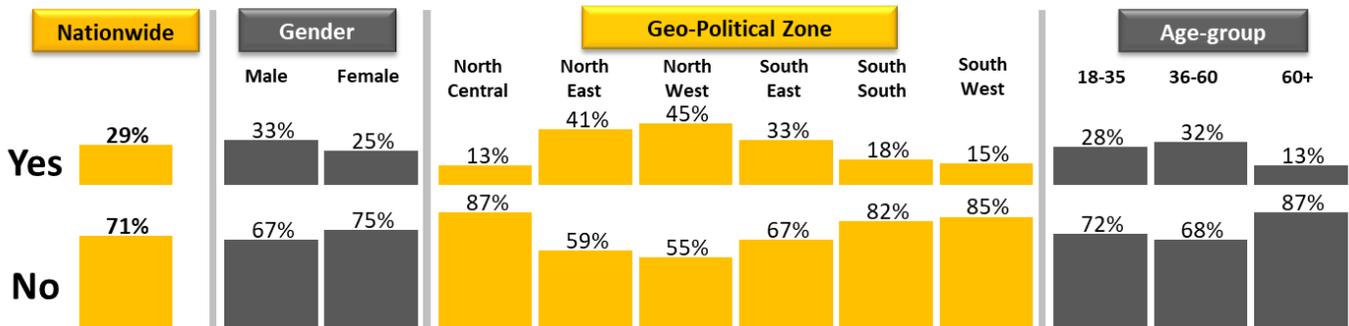
Similarly, of the 68 percent who claimed that their rights have not been infringed on before, 29 percent acknowledged that they know someone whose rights have been violated before. The North-West zone account for the highest number of respondents with this perception.

Has any of your human rights been violated before?



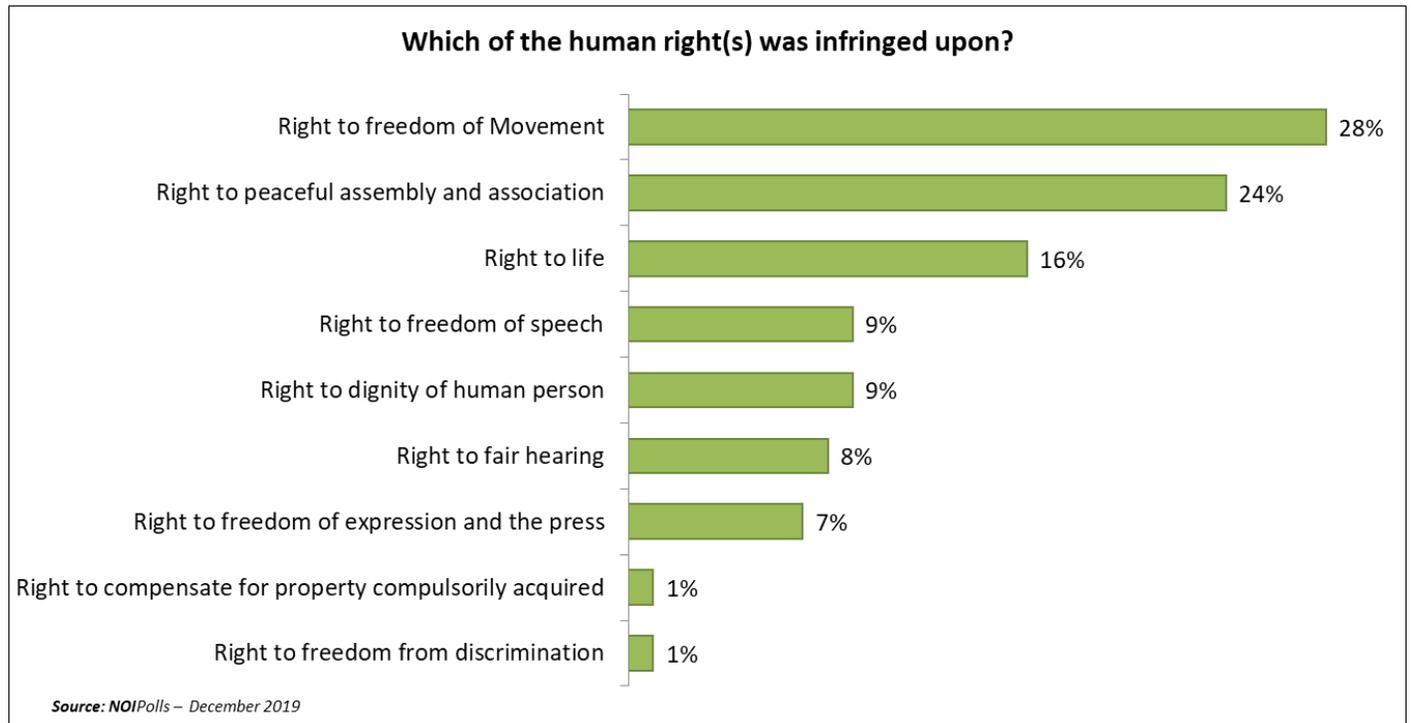
Source: NOIPolls – December 2019

If no, do you know anyone whose human rights has been violated before?

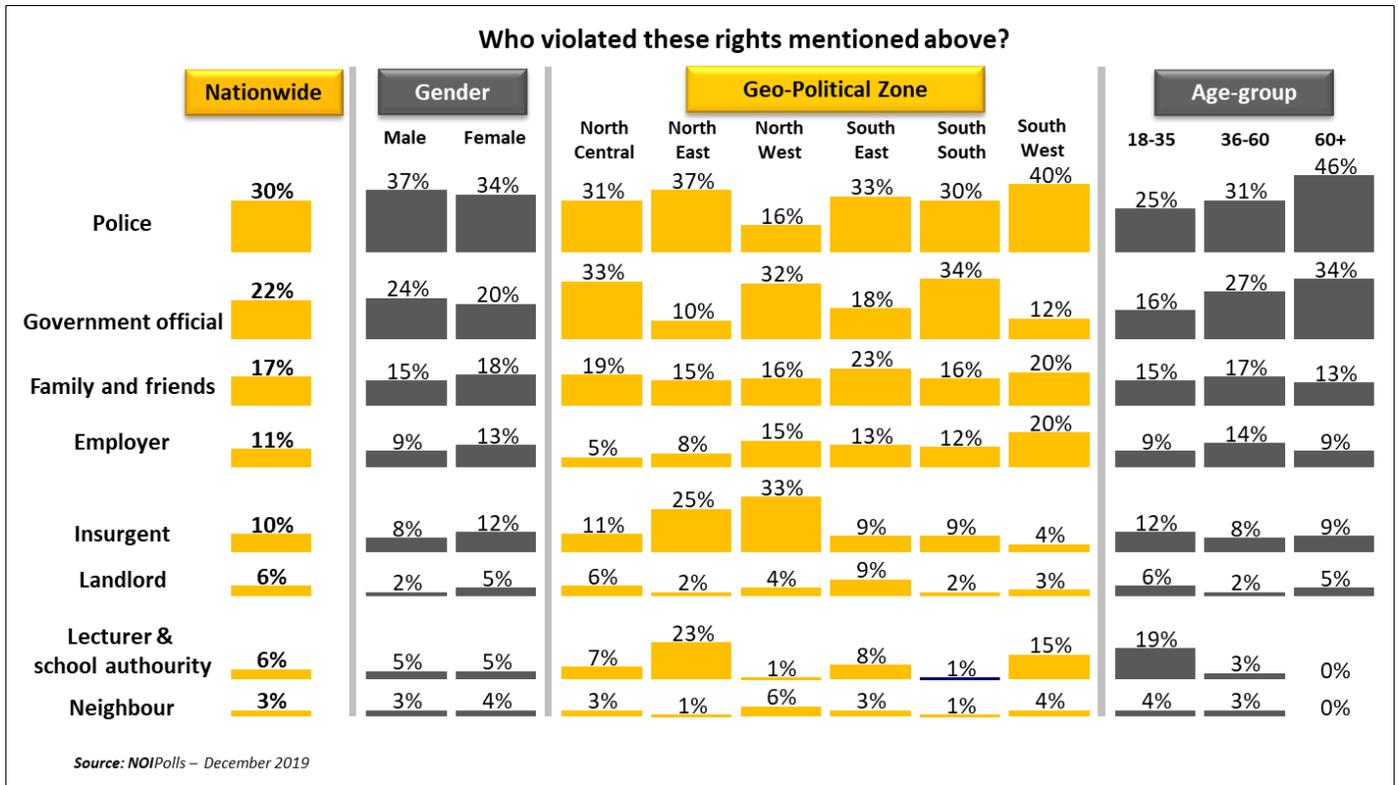


Source: NOIPolls – December 2019

An assessment of the several rights of Nigerians that have been violated revealed that 28 percent claimed that their ‘right to freedom of movement’ had been trampled upon in one way or another. While 24 percent stated that their ‘right to peaceful assembly and association’ has been infringed on, 16 percent mentioned ‘right to life’. Similarly, ‘right to freedom of speech’ (9 percent), ‘right to dignity of human person’ (9 percent), right to fair hearing’ (8 percent) and right to freedom of expression and the press’ (7 percent) amongst others were also reported to have been infringed upon.

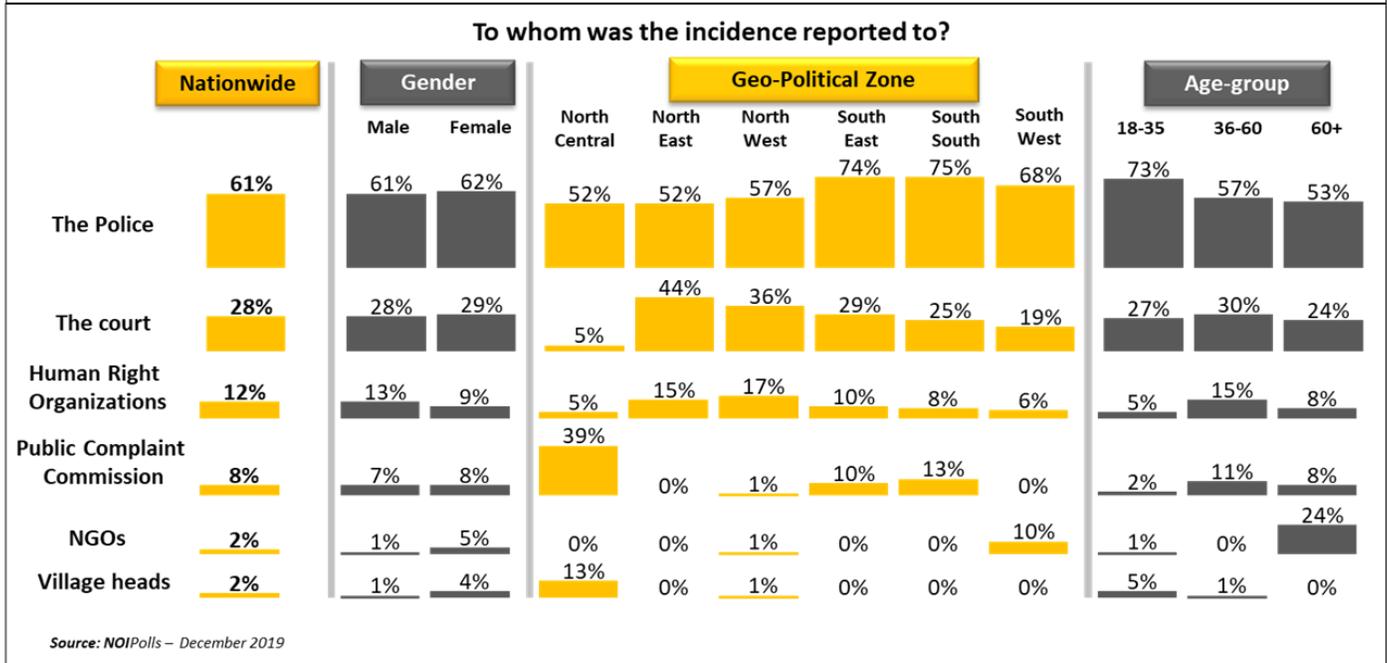
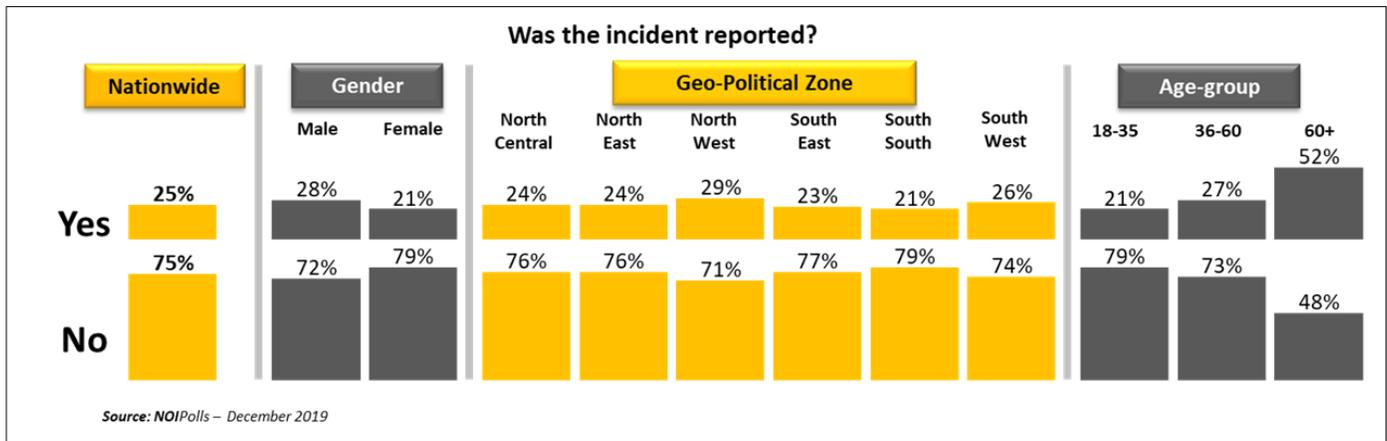


Subsequently, Nigerians who claimed that their rights were trampled on were further probed and sadly, findings revealed that 30 percent of the respondents disclosed that the Police is mainly responsible for violating these rights. Nigerians residing in the South-West zone (40 percent) make up the highest number of respondents who share the perception. Also, 22 percent lamented that their rights have been violated by government officials and respondents from South-South zone accounted for the highest representation in this category.

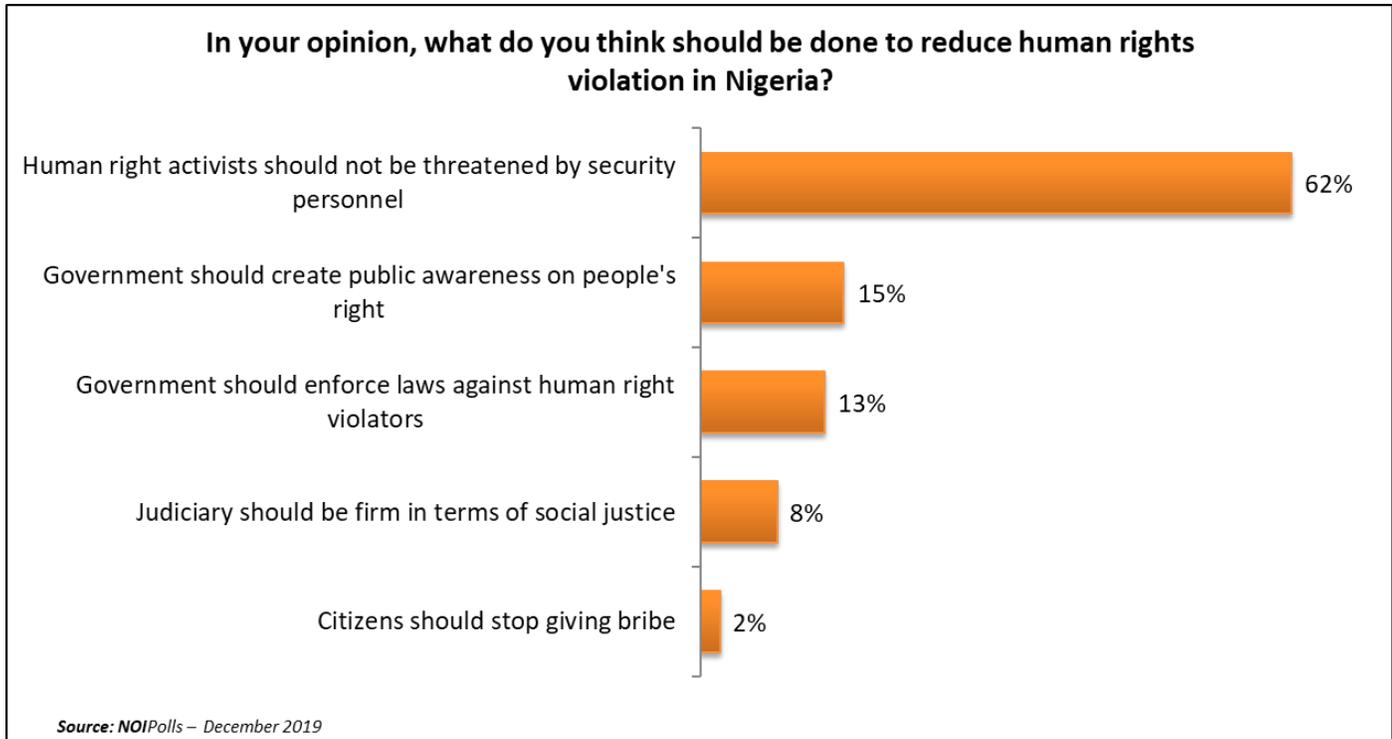


When asked if the incident was reported, 25 percent stated that the incidence was reported while 75 indicated that it was not reported.

Of the proportion who claimed that the incidence was reported, a greater number of them mentioned that they reported to the police and respondents aged between 18 – 35 years has the highest representation in this section. While 28 percent said they reported to the court, 12 percent reported to the Human Rights Organizations amongst others.



With regards to recommendations on reducing human rights violation in the country, 62 percent of Nigerians stated that human rights activist should be allowed to play their role rather than been threatened by security personnel. Similarly, 15 percent suggested that government should create public awareness on people’s rights, 13 percent advocated for government to enforce laws against human right violators while 8 percent recommended that the judiciary should be firm in terms of social justice.



In conclusion, the poll results have shown that most Nigerians believe that human right violation is prevalent in the country. For instance, 32 percent of Nigerians disclosed that their rights have been trampled upon before while few claimed that they know people whose rights have been infringed on before. Interestingly, respondents who claimed that their right to freedom of movement, right to peaceful assembly and association, right to life, right to freedom of speech etc. had been violated before reported that the Police and government officials ranked highest amongst other who violated these rights.

There is a need for the sensitization of the public on the scope of their fundamental human rights. This sensitization can be through seminars, paid adverts via media outlets, campaigns and the involvement of religious, traditional and civil institutions. The channels of seeking redress should also be communicated whilst direct access to organizations whose mantra includes the protection of human rights should be maintained.

Given that the police and government officials ranked highest, it is therefore, imperative for a routine retraining and reorientation of law enforcement officers across all cadres and government officials on what constitutes human rights as part of efforts to protect the masses. Finally, as advocated by 13 percent of the respondents, violators should be diligently prosecuted to serve as a deterrent to others and this could be achieved rapidly by putting modalities in place for the proper enforcement of the laws (National Human Rights Act, 2010) that ensure that Human Rights are protected and promoted across the country.

Survey Methods

The opinion poll was conducted in the week commencing December 2nd, 2019. It involved telephone interviews of a proportionate nationwide sample of 1,000 randomly selected phone-owning Nigerians aged 18 years and above,

representing the six geo-political regions and 36 states and the FCT of the country. Interviews were conducted in 5 languages – Igbo, Hausa, Yoruba, Pidgin English and English. Although we can say with 95% confidence that the results obtained were statistically precise – within a margin of error of plus or minus 4.65%; we recognize that the exclusive use of telephone polling has its limitation of excluding non-phone-owning Nigerians. Nonetheless, with the country’s teledensity put over 100 percent by the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), we consider our telephone polling approach appropriate. Also, given the rigorous scientific process of randomization and stratification applied, we can confidently stand by the validity of our methodology and approach. NOIPolls Limited, No. 1 for country specific polling services in West Africa. We conduct periodic opinion polls and studies on various socio-economic and political issues in Nigeria. More information is available at www.noi-polls.com.

Disclaimer

This press release has been produced by NOIPolls Limited to provide information on all issues which form the subject matter of the document. Kindly note that while we are willing to share results from our polls with the general public, we only request that NOIPolls be acknowledged as author whenever and wherever our poll results are used, cited or published. NOIPolls hereby certifies that all the views expressed in this document accurately reflect its views of respondents surveyed for the poll, and background information is based on information from various sources that it believes are reliable; however, no representation is made that it is accurate or complete. Whilst reasonable care has been taken in preparing this document, no responsibility or liability is accepted for errors or fact or for any views expressed herein by NOIPolls for actions taken as a result of information provided in this report. Any ratings, forecasts, estimates, opinions or views herein constitute a judgment as at the date of this document. If the date of this document is not current, the views and content may not reflect NOIPolls’ current findings and/or thinking.

Press Contact

Email: editor@noi-polls.com
cakubue@noi-polls.com
badedoyin@noi-polls.com

Number: +234 (0) 9 - 290 4162
+234 (0) 9 – 291 4877