

LIES AND THE HAIL OF BULLETS



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#ENDSARS

THE STORY OF LEKKI SHOOTINGS BY SURVIVORS

LIES AND THE HAIL OF BULLETS

On Tuesday, October 20, 2020, the world watched in shock as Nigerian military forces descended on peaceful #EndSARS protesters in Lekki area of Lagos, shooting some to death and maiming many others.

The young protesters were part of a massive people's movement across Nigeria challenging years of brutal and inhumane acts by the now-disbanded Special Anti-Robbery Squad, popularly known as SARS.

The SARS officers were involved in the profiling of young Nigerians, mounting of illegal roadblocks where they conducted unwarranted checks, arrests, and detention of suspects without trial, rape of women, and a host of other inhuman actions. Most of the victims of the abuses of these acts were young Nigerians.

Following global outcry over the Lekki mayhem, the Nigerian authorities have strenuously denied that the killings occurred. The police have also been accused of storming the homes of some of the protesters, arresting them without warrant and whisking them to unknown destinations. Bank accounts of some of the promoters of the protests have equally been frozen in a manner reminiscent of the military era.

As more human rights abuses are documented, the general feeling among Nigerians is that the victims of the Lekki mayhem and those unjustly targeted by the Nigerian state may not get justice. This feeling was reinforced when Nigerian Police and the Nigerian Army started making contradictory statements about the events of that night. The Army initially denied sending troops to shoot at armless protesters. In fact, on its official Twitter handle, it made the denial six times, asking people to “Beware of fake news”. Also on its Facebook page, it debunked a report on the incident, saying: “No soldiers were at the scene”. From the initial denial about the shootings, the debate escalated to who authorized the Army to invade the venue and whether there were shootings or not.

**Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu
denied ever calling in the troops
to take control of the toll gate. He
later recanted saying
“the order came from above”.**



That statement by the Governor dampened the enthusiasm of Nigerians on the likely outcome of the work of the eight-members Judicial Panel of Inquiry and Restitution later inaugurated by the Lagos Government to

investigate cases of police brutality. At the initial constitution of the panel, there was pessimism about how independent the team would be.

However, with the chairman, a respected retired judge, Justice Doris Okuwobi, respected human rights lawyer, Ebun-Olu Adegboruwa (SAN) and the inclusion of a representative of the youths, the panel was able to gain some level of public confidence after it started sitting.

Some revelations later at the panel sittings confirmed the fears of most of the protesters whose major grouse with SARS was its extra judicial killings and maltreatment of citizens.

The need for the international community to beam its searchlight on the incident of October 20, 2020 and happenings immediately after, informed Corporate Accountability and Public Participation Africa (CAPPA) decision to call on the International Criminal Court and the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights to open an international inquiry into the killings and maiming of #EndSARS protesters. Added to this, CAPPA decided to identify some of the survivors of the Lekki shootings, interview them, and capture their experience in graphic details for posterity's sake.

The interviews can be summed up thus: The Lekki toll gate protest is a metaphor and a signal that the youths have woken up and are ready to lend their voices to the cry of anguish in the land. Theirs is a legitimately angry generation, and the earlier the Nigerian government listen to their voices and address their grievances, the better for us. The lie can be denied but the truth will finally come to light.



#ENDSARS TIMELINE





The **#ENDSARS**, an online advocacy campaign, was started by Segun Awosanya in December 2017 due to the audacious brutality of a section of the Nigerian Police Force called Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS). The viciousness and brutality of the unit has been unleashed on the Nigerian youths who have been singled out because of their dressings, hairstyles, laptops and high end phones and cars. Since 2017, there have been at different times, calls for the scrapping of the unit. The Twitter hashtag became a movement in October 2020 after a young man was killed in Delta State. Below is a timeline of how events unraveled:

OCTOBER 3, 2020

- A video footage surfaced on twitter showing members of the SARS unit running away with the car of a man after killing him.
- The fury escalated when authorities claimed that the video was fake and the man who made the video was arrested.



OCTOBER 5, 2020

An upcoming artist Daniel Chibuike, popularly called Sleek was reportedly killed by SARS officers, sparking rekindled outrage.

OCTOBER 8, 2020

Nationwide protests started after days of rage and anger with videos and pictures showing different degrees of extortion and brutality by the SARS officers. Protesters slept at the gate of the Lagos State Government House, Alausa, Ikeja. till the 9th of October 2020.

OCTOBER 9, 2020

The Deputy Governor of Lagos State Government, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, while addressing the protesters acknowledged that the police do not have a right to trample on the right of the citizens based on their appearances or items in their possession.

The Lagos State House of Assembly held an emergency parliamentary sitting to deliberate on the petition of the #EndSARS protesters. The parliamentarians made a seven-point resolution which are:

- Nigeria's Senate and House of Assembly should probe FSARS,
- Police Commissioner should protect protesters,
- Molestation of youths should be stopped,
- Institution of public inquiry on the extrajudicial killings by Senate President and the House of Representative Speaker,
- SARS be proscribed and a new security outfit which will be more efficient with clearly spelt out code of conduct and rule of engagements be established while sanction is imposed for misdemeanour,
- Proscription of SARS and its replacement by a new unit with a clear code of conduct and
- Sanction of illegalities.

OCTOBER 10, 2020

- The protest continued and the Police started using tear gas and water to disperse protesters.
- Some protesters like Aisha Yesufu and Rinu Odualala were manhandled by the Nigerian police.
- The protest in Ogbomoso, Oyo State, turned violent when the Police injured seven protesters killing one Jimoh Isiaka.

OCTOBER 11, 2020

- The Inspector-General of Police, Mohammed Adamu, announced the dissolution of SARS.
- The protests continued despite the announcement.
- The police started using live bullets, tear gas and water cannons in dispersing the protesters.
- Three more protesters were shot dead in Ogbomoso.

OCTOBER 12, 2020

- The police opened fire on unarmed peaceful protesters in Surulere, Lagos killing one and leaving four injured.
- Amnesty International announced that the Nigerian Police Force has killed 10 persons since the anti-police brutality protests started against the Federal Special Anti-Robbery Squad (FSARS).

OCTOBER 13, 2020

- The Public Relations Officer of the Nigerian Police Force, Frank Mbah, announced the setting up of a Special Weapon and Tactics Team (SWAT) to replace SARS.
- Protesters were violently stopped from gaining entrance to the National Assembly by soldiers.
- The Lagos State Government set up a NGN200 million fund for residents who have been victims of police brutality.
- Some protesters and an Arise TV crew were injured during the protests.
- The Federal Government agreed to the demands of the #EndSARS protesters.

OCTOBER 14, 2020

- Protesters in Lagos state and Abuja were attacked with cutlasses, sticks and charms.
- Cars were destroyed and some of the protesters injured.

OCTOBER 15, 2020

- The Nigerian Army releases a statement warning "all subversive elements and troublemakers" that it "remains highly committed to defend the country and her democracy at all cost".
- The popular hacking group, *Anonymous* claimed via its Twitter handle, that it had breached some Nigerian government websites.
- The Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) banned all street demonstrations.
- The Nigerian Governors Forum (NGF) demanded that all the police officers who participated in actions that led to injury or death of Nigerians must be brought to justice.



OCTOBER 16, 2020

- The Police Service Commission reportedly listed the names of 37 former members of the disbanded (SARS) dismissed from service.

OCTOBER 17, 2020

- The Nigerian Army announced that it will commence a nationwide Exercise 'Crocodile Smile VI' from the 20th of October to the 31st of December.
- Okechukwu Iloamuazo and Ayodeji Erinfolami, both lost their lives same day in Lagos from stray bullets by police officers.

OCTOBER 19, 2020

- Lagos State Government inaugurated an eight-man Judicial Panel of Inquiry and Restitution to investigate cases of police brutality in the state.
- Edo State Government announced the imposition of a 24-hour curfew across the state with effect from 4pm.



OCTOBER 20, 2020

- The speaker of the Federal House of Representatives, Femi Gbajabiamila, vowed that he will not sign off the 2021 Appropriation Bill presently before the National Assembly if adequate provisions are not made for the compensation of the families of the victims of police brutality and meeting the demands of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU).
- At 11:49 am, the Lagos State Government announced the imposition of a 24-hour curfew in all parts of the state, with effect from 4 pm Tuesday, October 20, 2020.
- At about 4pm, the Inspector General of the Police, M.A. Adamu, ordered the immediate nationwide deployment of anti-riot police unit, Police Mobile Force (PMF), over attacks on police facilities by hoodlums during the #EndSARS protests.
- A police station in the Orile-Iganmu area of Lagos State was set on fire by suspected thugs.
- Lagos State Government issued a directive to extend the enforcement of its 24 hour curfew from 4pm to 9pm, to enable residents stuck in traffic get to their destinations.
- The Lagos State Government orders an investigation into the Lekki Toll Plaza shooting that was allegedly done by men of the Nigerian Army on Tuesday evening.

At about 6:45pm Tuesday, October 20th, 2020 peaceful protesters were shot at by the Nigerian military at the Lekki toll gate.

● OCTOBER 21, 2020

- President Muhammadu Buhari assures justice for victims of brutality, and that the police reforms demanded by the demonstrators were gathering pace.
- Lagos State Government suspended all government activities and declared lockdown for 72 hours in view of growing violence in the state.
- The United Nations condemns the use of “excessive and disproportionate” force by Nigerian security forces against peaceful protesters.
- The Nigerian Army denied deploying soldiers to attack #EndSARS protesters who defied the imposed curfew and peacefully assembled at the Lekki Toll Plaza.
- Television Continental (TVC) station in the Ikosi-Ketu area of Lagos State was torched by hoodlums who attacked the building.
- The headquarters of the Nigerian Ports Authority in Marina, Lagos was also reportedly set on fire by hoodlums involved in the #EndSARS protests.
- UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet urges “Nigerian authorities to take urgent steps to deal decisively with the underlying problem of persistent violations committed by the security forces.”



- The United Kingdom High Commission in Nigeria announced the shutdown of its VISA application centers in Nigeria for the next 48 hours, with immediate effect, due to the ongoing #EndSARS protests in the country.
- Lagos State Government suspended all government activities and declared lockdown for 72 hours in view of growing violence in the state.

● OCTOBER 22, 2020

- President Muhammadu Buhari addressed the country in a nationwide broadcast.
- Armed men shot at protesters in Oyigbo, Port Harcourt, River State.

● OCTOBER 23, 2020

- In his speech, President Muhammadu Buhari pointed out that the promptness with which the Federal Government acted in meeting the demands of the #EndSARS protesters seemed to have been misconstrued as a sign of weakness and twisted by some for their selfish unpatriotic interests



Most critics saw this as a disguised threat against further protests.

- Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu said the Lagos State government is working towards rebuilding and stabilizing things across the state through verification of victims and has called on youth leader to provide representatives for a judicial panel.
- US Senate leader, Elizabeth Warren called for the United States to stand with the Nigerian people over the #EndSARS protests to demand justice and equality for the victims.
- President Muhammadu Buhari presided over a National Security Council meeting with some former heads of state and some security chiefs.
- The Lagos State Government released a schedule of cases to be heard in the criminal prosecution of police officers for offenses related to violation of human rights in the state.
- Feminist Coalition, a not-for-profit organization and one of the leading supporters of the #EndSARS campaign, informed all financial supporters of the campaign to stop sending funds to the group, while also revealing plans for the remaining donated funds.

● OCTOBER 24, 2020

- Nigerians in diaspora picked up the pace with protests recorded in Zurich, Paris, New Zealand, Berlin, Toronto, Belgium and other cities around the globe.
- Human Angle reported that forensic evidence from videos recorded during the Lekki shootings reveals that the recorded videos were authentic despite claims by the Nigerian Military that the videos were doctored.
- The Governor of Lagos State, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, announced that the Judicial panel set up by the state would include the incident at Lekki toll gate.
- Osun State Governor Gboyega Oyetola announced a 24-hour curfew in the state. The decision was announced barely 24 hours after the initial curfew, which was suspended.



● OCTOBER 25, 2020

- Lagos State Government announced that it will be prosecuting 229 suspects who allegedly took advantage of the #EndSARS protests to vandalize and loot public and private properties in different parts of the State.

● OCTOBER 26, 2020

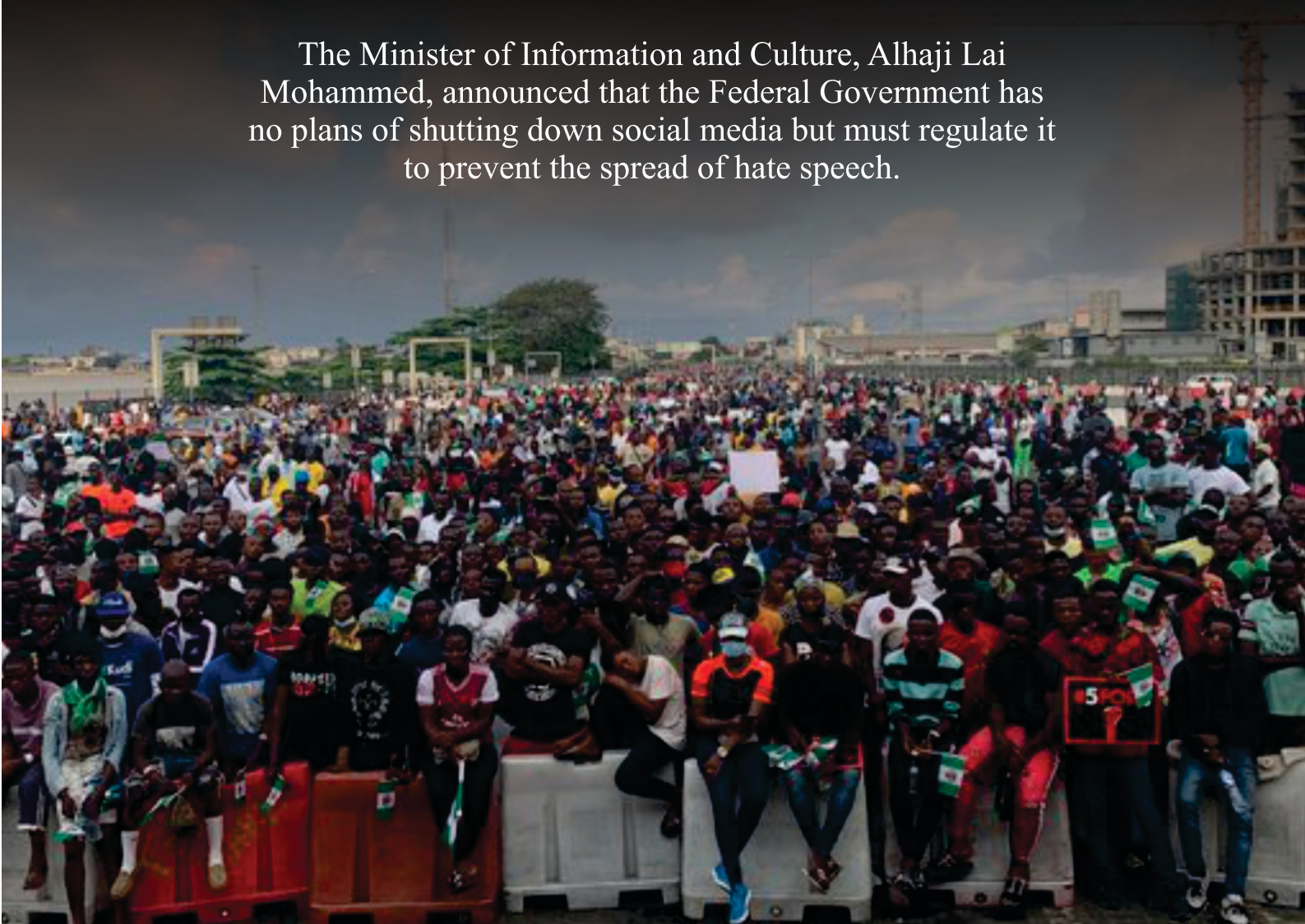
- The Minister for Works and Housing, Mr. Babatunde Fashola, on Sunday, 'unearthed' a hidden camera at the Lekki Toll Gate, Admiralty Circle, Lagos, during an on-site assessment.
- The National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) imposed various fines on Arise TV, Africa Independent Television (AIT) and Channels Television between N2million and N3million.
- President Muhammadu Buhari announced the Lagos State Judicial Panel has his full support and expressed confidence in the outcomes of other panels set up by states.
- The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Femi Gbajabiamila disclosed that Lagos State will need about N1 trillion for the reconstruction and repair of the properties and infrastructure that was vandalized and destroyed by hoodlums.

● OCTOBER 27, 2020

- Lagos State Judicial Panel on police brutality started sitting.
- The Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, insisted that there were only two confirmed deaths during the shooting incident that happened at the Lekki Tollgate.
- The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), called on protesters to be peaceful in conducting their protests and urged Nigerian security operatives to exercise restraint in the handling of protesters.

NOVEMBER 1, 2020

The Minister of Information and Culture, Alhaji Lai Mohammed, announced that the Federal Government has no plans of shutting down social media but must regulate it to prevent the spread of hate speech.



The Army said it is unprofessional and against the operational security of the organization to disclose the identities of soldiers deployed to Lekki Tollgate on Tuesday, October 20, 2020.

NOVEMBER 2, 2020

President Muhammadu Buhari announced that protests cannot last indefinitely and called on youths to dialogue with the government to engage in comprehensive reforms.

- The President of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Olumide Akpata, stated that the Federal Government's plan to introduce regulation of social media after the #EndSARS protests are suspicious, as the social media space is already regulated.
- The Federal Government insisted that the three broadcast stations (Channels TV, Arise TV, and AIT) which were recently sanctioned by the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC), acted irresponsibly in their coverage of the #ENDSARS protests, and said there is no going back on the sessions
- The Nigerian Police Force started training over 400 personnel as new Special Weapons and Tactics Unit (SWAT) at the Police Mobile College in Eggon, Nasarawa State.

NOVEMBER 3, 2020

- The Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, stated that there is a possibility that the October 20 shooting of protesters in Lekki was done by hoodlums and not soldiers, and that investigation needed to be carried out to determine who shot the protesters.

The Governor of Oyo State, Seyi Makinde, announced that the families of policemen killed in the protest in Oyo State would also be beneficiaries of the N500m victims fund set up by the state.

- The Ministry of Interior stated it did not generate a 'no-fly' list and that reports of #EndSARS protesters getting their passports seized due to a travel ban is fake news.
- The Lekki Concession Company (LCC) submitted to the Lagos Judicial Panel on Police brutality, the video footage recorded by the company's surveillance camera on the night of October 20, when soldiers opened fire on unarmed #EndSARS protesters at the Lekki tollgate area in Lagos.
- The Judicial Panel of Inquiry turned down the request of the Lekki Concession Company (LCC), the operators of the tollgate to take back possession of the tollgate.

NOVEMBER 4, 2020

- The Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Mohammed Adamu announced that over 1,590 suspects have been arrested across the country following the widespread looting and rioting that occurred during the post protests violence.
- The International Criminal Court (ICC) stated that it will commence a preliminary examination into the unfortunate shootings which occurred at the Lekki toll gate where #EndSARS protesters gathered to protest police brutality and call for Police reforms.
- The Ministers from South-West Nigeria demanded a thorough investigation of the involvement of the Nigerian military in the shooting of unarmed protesters at the Lekki Tollgate.

NOVEMBER 5, 2020

- The Lagos State Police Command warned individuals or group of students to desist from any planned protest in the state.
- The Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Mohammed Adamu, called on traditional leaders to work with the Police on Community Policing, in a bid to secure local communities from violence.

NOVEMBER 6, 2020

- The Federal High Court sitting in Abuja ordered the Central Bank of Nigeria to freeze the accounts of 19 individuals and a public affairs company linked to the #EndSARS protests till January 2021.

NOVEMBER 7, 2020

- Youth representatives at the Lagos State Panel pull out over complaints of CBN blocking accounts of #EndSARS activists.
- The Lagos Judicial Panel of Inquiry investigating incidents of human rights abuse by security agents was granted access to video footage of Lekki shootings.

NOVEMBER 8, 2020

- The Lagos State Government directed the immediate release of 253 persons arrested by the police for criminal offences in connection with the #EndSARS protests in the state, due to non-disclosure of a prima facie case against them by the police force.

● OCTOBER 28, 2020

- The National Economic Council (NEC) launched a committee to meet the needs and demands of Nigerian youths behind the #EndSARS protests. The head of the Committee is Vice President, Yemi Osinbajo.
- The Nigerian Army stated that the alleged massacre of protesters at Lekki Toll Plaza is untrue, unfounded, and aimed at causing anarchy in the country and that their presence was requested by the Lagos State Government to restore normalcy.
- Speaker of the House of Representatives, Femi Gbajabiamila, said that some of the demands of the youths following the #EndSARS protests would be addressed constitutionally, as part of the decision was to reform the Police.

● OCTOBER 29, 2020

- The Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, said he will compensate the families of policemen killed during the hijacked #EndSARS protests that erupted in Lagos and pledged to rebuild destroyed police stations.
- Femi Adesina, Special Adviser to the President on Media and Publicity said the looting of COVID-19 palliatives was not only done out of hunger, but out of greed and criminality.

● OCTOBER 30, 2020

- The Lagos State tribunal continued and adjourned to Tuesday, November 2nd. The Panel visited the scene of the Lekki Toll gate shooting and found five bullet shells.
- The Inspector General of Police, Mohammed Abubakar Adamu, said that officers of the Nigeria Police acted professionally and exercised commendable restraints during the protests, in a response to Amnesty International about police firing at protesters.

● OCTOBER 31, 2020

- The Nigerian Police Force said that about 205 critical national security assets, corporate facilities and private properties were razed and vandalized during the #EndSARS protest, which was hijacked by hoodlums and arsonists.
- Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, announced lifting the curfew imposed on the state with immediate effect.
- Celebrities begin the WeMOVE webinar to discuss the way forward after the protests.

NOVEMBER 11, 2020

- Oyo State Governor, Seyi Makinde inaugurated the Oyo State Judicial Panel of Inquiry into Police Brutality, Violation of Rights of Citizens and Unlawful Killings.
- Adebo Ogundoyin, Speaker of the Oyo State House of Assembly announced that the Oyo State legislature will not support any attempts to restrict social media expression.
- The Central Bank of Nigeria, informed the Federal High Court in Abuja that the funds in frozen accounts of the 20 #EndSARS promoters, might have been linked to terrorist activities.

NOVEMBER 15, 2020

- The Nigerian Army stated that the Lagos State Government did not inform the army of the change in curfew time from 4pm to 9pm on the day the Lekki shootings happened.

The Nigerian Army said they were not happy that the Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, denied inviting them to help restore law and order at the Lekki Tollgate, during the #EndSARS protests.

The Nigerian Army told the Lagos Judicial Panel that only blank bullets were fired at the Lekki Protesters on the 20th of October and that no fatalities were recorded by the Army.

- The Lagos State Government announced that it has secured the release of 107 people who were involved in the #EndSARS protests across the state from police facilities and correctional centers in the state.

FEBRUARY 6, 2021

The Lagos Judicial Panel voted that the Lekki Concession Company repossessed and reopened the Lekki toll gate after three months of closure because of the shootings at the toll gate.

FEBRUARY 8, 2021

Following the news about the repossession, Nigerian youths took to twitter to oppose the reopening by planning a #OccupyLekkiTollgate protest set for Saturday, February 13, 2021.

FEBRUARY 9, 2021

A counter rally, #DefendLagos, was planned to hold on Saturday at the Lekki toll gate to protest the protesters of #OccupyLekkitollgate.

FEBRUARY 10, 2021

The Federal High Court in Abuja ordered the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to unfreeze the accounts of 20 #EndSARS campaigners targeted by the apex bank.

FEBRUARY 11, 2021

- *Lai Mohammed warned against fresh protests under the banner of #EndSARS.*
- *Police and security officials were deployed to the Lekki toll gate ahead of the planned protests on Saturday.*

FEBRUARY 13, 2021

- Several protesters in Lagos were arrested after they tried to hold a peaceful rally against the reopening of the Lekki tollgate.
- *Ebun-Olu Adegboruwa (SAN), a member of the Lagos State Judicial Panel of Inquiry probing the alleged killing of #EndSARS protesters by soldiers at the Lekki toll gate, said he could not continue to sit at any panel when fresh assaults are being perpetrated with impunity.*
- The five panel members in Anambra State resigned because of police brutality, extortion, and even extrajudicial killings had remained unchecked in the state.
- #DefendLagos campaigners withdrew from Lekki counter protest.

#EndSARS updates

March 20, 2021

- Nigerian Army failed to show up to testify at the panel, neither were they represented by a counsel, despite being at the top of the panel's list to testify.
- One of the coordinators of #EndSARS went ahead to testify, regardless.

April 17, 2021

- Lekki shooting eyewitness testified before the Lagos panel of enquiry and tendered two external hard drives containing footages in evidence.
- Serah Ibrahim, one of the coordinators of the #EndSARS protest, testified that she witnessed how soldiers and later policemen shot innocent protesters at the Lekki toll gate. The two hard drive she tendered in evidence suggested that the Lekki Concession Company (LCC) was holding on to more visuals in its custody capable of revealing what transpired on the night of the incident.

September 8, 2021

- Despite #EndSARS and the various unsolved mysteries, unrepentant policemen continue extortion, harassment, and intimidation of citizens.

September 10, 2021

- Forensic experts linked bullets recovered at Lekki tollgate to the Nigerian Army. The forensic company, Sentinel Forensic Limited, while testifying through its representative Mr. Joseph Kayode Funsho before the Judicial Panel of Inquiry maintained that the live ammunition (bullets) recovered from the scene of shooting at Lekki tollgate were discovered to have been registered to the Nigerian Army.

September 18, 2021

- The Lagos panel of enquiry suspiciously suspended its sitting until further notice.
- A respected member of the #EndSARS panel, Mr. Ebun Adegboruwa (SAN) alleged that there are attempts to frustrate the #EndSARS panel. In his words: "There are attempts to frustrate the #EndSARS Judicial Panel from reaching meaningful conclusions on investigations into the Lekki Toll Gate incident of 20th October 2020. This is alarming. Who is trying to frustrate the panel's investigative efforts concerning the controversial alleged Lekki shooting in Lagos? How? "I will give details subsequently,".



| INTERVIEWS |



**“They came to kill,
not to scare
protesters away”**

- Ajumobi Olajide

I am a baker working with a bakery at Idowu Estate, Oke Ira-nla in Lagos State. I was there on 20th October 2020 at Lekki Tollgate during the #EndSARS protest. We had been protesting since October 18th, which was a Sunday. Being a baker, my colleagues and I do sell hot bread on the highways, but when there was no vehicular movement, we couldn't sell, and our work wasn't going well again, that was why I joined the protest.

Gunshots and darkness suddenly

We went on that Sunday, October 18th, and everything went peacefully on that day and on Monday 19th, too. But to my surprise on Tuesday 20th, we were there, and everything was going on peacefully. But at about 6:30 pm on that Tuesday 20th, suddenly we began to hear gunshots, I didn't know where those sounds were coming from, and suddenly the light was turned off and everywhere became dark, pitch dark. This was when I knew that we were in for trouble. So, I decided to run for my dear life. In the process of running, I noticed that something had hit my leg. I fell.

I began shouting desperately and repeatedly, "I have been shot, please help!", but no one came to my rescue. And that was all I could recollect that happened at that moment. When I opened my eyes again, I found out that I was in Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH) at Ikeja, around 6:00 am on the second day when a female doctor held my hand and tried to give me an injection. The doctor told me further that I was brought to the hospital few minutes past 11:00 p.m. on that Tuesday by some good Samaritans.

Around 12 noon, another doctor came to me asking me if I was awake. It was that doctor that explained to me that I was already a dead person when I was brought to the hospital on that fateful night. He said further that those that brought me had already taken me to an undisclosed hospital where I was given two injections and was referred to LASUTH, so that I may survive.

Back to life by grace

I thank the almighty God that I am alive to give this testimony today. I asked the doctors who were the people that brought me to the hospital; are they police or soldiers? They said they don't know them.

In all sincerity, I didn't see the people that shot me. I don't know who they were but I know that I was shot at Lekki Tollgate and sustained injury on my leg. The doctors have been taking care of me since then because no relations have visited me because I don't know their phone numbers off hand. But one day one of those who came to evacuate our wastes gave me his phone and I called a boy who is a son to one of my area brothers. When this my brother came on Thursday, October 22, I gave him the the list of medications prescribed for me by the doctors to help rally round for money and buy them for me.

They carried out operation on the leg almost a month after the incident. The incident occurred on October 20th and the leg was operated on November 11th. But before the operation was done, I suffered severe pains. I carried bullet in my body for three weeks.



Living in pain

They operated the leg on November 11th and I was discharged on November 24th. I couldn't lift the leg as at the time I was discharged. Truly I was not the one spending money to buy drugs since the incident happened, but I have no one who will take care of me. No relations, my wife is taking care of our three children. But all my pleas were to no avail, I was forcefully discharged. They said they needed their bed. And that was how I left LASUTH and came to Ibadan where my people are. I take medications of NGN9,250 every five days. The antibiotics and pain killers are so expensive. I go through severe pains if I missed those drugs for one day.

This incident has led my wife to attempt to divorce me because there is no money and to eat has been very difficult. She has been the one running up and down to see how the medicines could be bought. Sometimes my wife answered strange calls and I can't caution her because she will tell me it's the person who want to give her money to take care of me. Don't you see that I am in a big mess? Now look at it, the person we employed to be taking care of me at home, made me understand that this implant in my body will be removed through operation again. What I could remember about the first operation at LASUTH, a cheque of NGN250,000 was issued for us as a fee to carry out the operation before my brother who was with me refused that it is an #EndSARS protest patient and they are the one that have been taking care of me before and thank God for the timely intervention of another doctor who enlightened them about the whole process. What makes me cry most of the time is, I will still be looking for above NGN200,000 to remove this implant when the time comes, outside the money that I have spent on medications all this while. And the day they are going to remove this I do not know yet and I take medications of NGN9,250 every five days which I must not miss at all. This pain is too much. The children have resumed school, It's my wife that is taking care of that responsibility. She is the same person running up and down to buy medicines for me, why has my life come to this simply because I am a Nigerian? Is it a taboo for citizens to stage a peaceful protest to demand what rightfully belongs to us from the government we elected into power? Look at what government turned me to?

My fellow Nigerians, I beg you in the name of God, I need your help because I don't want my leg to be amputated and that is why I've come for your help.

Again, I heard it in the news that the government denied shooting at anyone and that it was rubber bullets that were shot. Is it rubber bullet that broke my bone? They planted iron in my leg so that it will join my bone together, how long will that take to join? Six months or a year? The pains that I go through on daily basis, I cannot pray it for my worst enemy. Please fellow Nigerians, I want you to come to my aid, do not allow my leg to be amputated. Do not let my wife and children become someone else's. My family that used to be a happy family is gradually becoming sour. My wife has been answering strange calls. If she tells me she is going to sleep outside, do I still have the grace to caution her? Please fellow Nigerians help me and let me walk again with my legs. This is my own account over the last #EndSARS protest at Lekki tollgate.

But one thing that is certain on that fateful day was that, they came to kill all of us. No, they didn't come there that night to scare us away because, what about people that had drop dead before I was hit by the bullet? If not for the timely intervention of the good Samaritans who rescued me and took me to the hospital, I may not have had this opportunity to give this testimony. If truly they only wanted to scare us away from that venue as they claimed, they could have used tear gas instead of bullets, and everyone would have gone back to their various destinations.

Fulani herdsmen have been killing Nigerians in their numbers, they can't go and face them, Boko Haram is there. I am never involved in terrorism or banditry, but see what government has turned me to? The money to buy medications, to remove the implant and how my family and I would be feeding, so that my wife will not become another man's wife and myself will become useless, prompted me to make this appeal to Nigerians to come to my aid. Please help me. This is my testimony.





“They shot my son in the forehead”

- Ayedungbe Olufunmi

On the day that incident happened, someone called me on phone that my child had been taken to General Hospital, Ikeja. We spent five days there with my child placed on oxygen because the bullet hit him in the forehead. On the fifth day, they referred us to Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH where surgery was carried out on him. All this time, he was on oxygen until the third day after the surgery before he opened his eyes. And it took one week before he was able to talk. They were passing pap through nostrils for him. This incident happened at Lekki Toll-gate on October 20, 2020, during the #EndSARS protests. When the surgery was about to be carried out, they asked me to sign a document and that, it will take six months before he would be able to regain his memory. After the surgery, we did some scans. He sustained gunshot on his forehead and also at the back of his head. I noted that after the surgery was done and he opened his eyes to see me, as he attempted to call 'My mummy', the mouth was bent. Although I have been told that after the surgery, there would be some physical challenges and he will be doing some things that he has not been doing before and that I should endeavor to be correcting those things in him, so I prepared myself.

In search of justice

So, when I noticed the mouth was bent, I corrected that. They carried him to pass excreta! But one thing I never understood in this incident is, sometimes the hands will be shaking and one of his arms has not been functional. I am a single mother of two and he is the first born, there is no help. Before he sustained the gunshot wound at Lekki Tollgate during #EndSARS protest, Ayomide was known as someone that is vocal but now, he can't talk again. In fact, today I am the one who wears clothes and shoes for him; he cannot do all those things again. A child that was talking before, now I am the one speaking for him. I follow him to everywhere we are asked to come.

Please my fellow Nigerians, justice must be done. He went to Lekki Tollgate and there he sustained the gunshot wound. On that day, several lives were lost. At General Hospital, there are several people who sustained various degrees of injuries that were brought there. Since October 20, 2020 when the incident happened at Lekki Toll-gate when the peaceful protesters were shot at and Ayomide was one of the victims, I have been going up and down, looking for money. We have spent huge amount of money, thank God for good Samaritans that have been assisting us. I have no parents and no husband. Please fellow Nigerians, come to my aid and see that justice is done.





“Soldiers will tell people to run and as they go, they shoot at them”

- Dabira Oluwa


I actually participated in the protest because it was unique. I joined the Lekki Tollgate in particular on October 16th, 2020. I was motivated to join because, first, I am an entrepreneur and the system has never in anyway supported individual's ideas and the system generally is faulty. We can't continue to struggle and smile at the same time. So, I got motivated seeing brave Nigerian youths like me to say that we can put an end to police brutality; we want a government that is accountable; we want transparency in the affairs and governance of our society generally and that is what we were agitating for.

We demanded transparency

And from the time I've been following up with the protest, it's been a peaceful one and it prompted something in me that Nigerians are actually organized people, but the system has suppressed the beauty that is in Nigerian youths. Because you find Hausa, Ibo, Yoruba, and people from all ethnic groups working together without no one giving order or rules on what to do and how to do them. People were cleaning, they were ensuring peace and sanity, in fact we were looking out for one another sleeping out there day and night. I actually concentrated on the stage, basically crowd control and ensuring that there was no casualty of any sort. It's been a smooth one all the way. And on October 201 I got to the protest venue, I used to get there 6:30 a.m., to put the stage in order. Some people did sleep back to ensure that there is no form of harassment on that ground. At about 12:00 noon after doing the regular cleaning of the place and ensuring that the stage is accommodating enough for people to air their minds, we got information that there was going to be a curfew, and we were just wondering where does it happen that curfew will be placed on people in less than 24 hours?

Some of us don't even live at Lekki, we came for the protest at Lekki because we believed that Lekki is a bit more secured, there were touts coming to invade the place and it was more organized. Some people came from Ibadan, I met some people that came from Ogun State to join the protest at Lekki Tollgate.

So, when we got that information, we laughed and said 4:00pm we are still there, we need this government to provide answer to what we are asking them because it's our right to do so. For me as a Nigerian, the only thing you have is to protest. You don't have any right to anything. There is no medical system, the system is just messed up. So, when we got the information, we kept on airing our minds that the government must be accountable, we want transparency, we want an end to police brutality in our society. And we got another information again that the curfew has been shifted to 9:00 pm. In the mood of excitement because regularly, people leave that place at about 9 to 9:30 pm, we go to sleep and come back again in the morning. So, as we were busy agitating, together with me and DJ Switch were on stage and creating enlightenment that if the military or the police force came, we don't know they were coming to kill or attack us. Our thought was that they will come probably with tear gas and we were sensitizing them that when they come, be at a sober position by sitting down, raising up your flags and chanting the Nigeria national anthem.



That's what we were busy telling people that if you know you are tired and because of this curfew declared, the roads in the whole Lagos State were blocked, there was no movement of any sort. How do you expect the crowd of over 5,000 people to start going home? And when we are scattered anything could happen to anybody, they could be attacked. So, we resorted to say we will stay in one position. Curfew to me means don't move about. So that was the idea we had that we are going to be in sober mood while we are still asking the government, the Lagos State Government we voted for to come and give us answer and to do the needful by putting things in place. What we asked for was that, reform the police, increase their welfare and don't make people in force our enemies.

And the Military arrived

And at about 6:45pm or thereabout, someone came to the stage and told us that the army are on their way because we started hearing gunshots from afar and I turned down on the stage. I was the lady in shorts with DJ Switch by my side. We started hearing gunshots from Sandfill junction and it was loud and alarming. Looking from the stage I could see from afar because it was tall. And I could see people pushing the barricade to prevent them from coming towards our direction but because of the level of shootings; they were shooting up and shooting at the people at the same time. People started running back and falling at that point and at that juncture we knew that it was beyond child's play; it was like we were meant to be killed. At that moment we realized that the bullets were coming straight even as far as we were. They came down from their trucks and they were shooting. There was one who put earpiece, it was like he was having fun, and he was shooting and probably dancing to a music. And I thought to myself that is it the end of Nigeria, is it the end of the world for us to just come out as people with no weapon with us to protest and ask this government that begged us literally to vote for them, is this how they treat people and instill fear in us because they don't want to be transparent and take responsibilities for their shortcomings in their system of governance? I came down from the stage and I sat under the tyre wheel of a truck and I was peeping under to see the effect of what was going on. Everybody has moved closed to the stage, we were all closed up at that stage. They were running and I was looking at one of the soldiers, running towards our direction so immediately I raised my head a guy saw me and was like, ah mama, you're here, thank you for not leaving us alone. As he was sitting down, within a spate of seconds, the bullet hit him at the same place I was hiding and I said to myself this could have been me right now. And the guy told me, mama the bullet just hit me and I told him to calm down, and I saw his hand, blood gushing out. From that position I know the bullet will also hit me anytime from that moment so I tried crawling with him into the crowd. That time it was already past 7:00pm, the day was already going that we could hardly see one another, they were still shooting. At a point some guys got up and said you asked us to sit down and you're still shooting at us, is it a wrong thing to ask you guys to do the right thing, kill all of us. As those guys were talking, they were shooting at them. The soldiers will tell people to run and as they go they shoot at them. At a point I said to myself this is the end of the road. And not too long, a Range Rover SUV drove in with a white handkerchief and was approaching the military personnel shooting at that time and when they saw him, they stopped shooting. I guess he was a more superior personnel. There was a name tag on his uniform. And he tried to approach the crowd and said calm down and listen to me but nobody wanted to listen at that point because it wasn't heard of. That should have been the first thing to do, address the people and tell them go home, most of us got scared and we would go. He was doing what he should have done first after souls have been lost. I could count five bodies that were already lifeless, because we were touching them and trying to resuscitate them with the little knowledge we have. Some of them were lifeless and some of them were almost giving up the ghost as a result of losing so much of blood.

He wanted to approach but nobody was ready to listen to him. I summoned courage, I saw him as someone that wanted to broker peace at that moment, I raised up my hand and crawled towards him and said "Sir, we need ambulances, people are dying. Look at bodies on the floor", and he said who are you and I replied him that I was one of the coordinators. And he said, ok go and get the ambulances and I told him I will not leave if one of the soldiers didn't take me out because I see them asking people to leave and they shoot at them. He said don't worry go, I said no I will not leave. So, when I got under the Toll-gate one of the subordinates brought a phone and was recording me and said why are you people still outside? And I told him curfew was supposed to be 9:00 pm and you people started shooting at us since some minutes past 6 O'clock and the roads in Lagos are blocked and I don't stay around the Island.

For me to get to my house from Island it will take like two hours, there is no transportation of any sort. How do I go because the protest was going on in the whole of Lagos and the roads are blocked. He said ok go and get the ambulances and immediately one of the army personnel walked me out of where the army personnel were positioned, I saw some of the boys trying to see what they could do afar and I told them we need to get ambulance for people that are dying and some of them made some calls and ambulances came and immediately we approached the military personnel that were at the tip end of the scene of event, they turned us back that we cannot enter the place. I just had to stay behind the fence and I was off in my head completely because I left over a thousand people there and I was like I hope these people will not all die before day break? At some point when the General left, the soldiers stopped shooting so when he left, I heard, although I wasn't there and am not going to dwell on that much. So, in the morning I went back to tollgate with Madam Victoria Oniru. It was a deserted place, blood everywhere, the place was like a ghost town and I just knew that a lot of things had happened in that place. I couldn't do so much at that time, people were gathered to continue to protest because of the fear of the officers there who were still shooting at that time being October 21st.

I tried to find my way to Reddington Hospital to see some victims because I knew some people who took victims to the hospital and they were giving me feedbacks. They were sending me videos back-to-back of what was going on. One of them told me that they are moving people there but they don't know who is moving them but they know the governor came here. I went to the hospital and I tried to approach the doctor and they said they can't give me any information. They said they are going to refer me to the HR of that hospital and he said ehm.... I said it means you guys are hiding something. And they came to refer them without our own permission. And now they claimed they like them, if they like them, they won't shot at them in the first place. So why will you tell me you can't give me information on where these people are referred to? And I told him that I am going to call your name out. Yes, this hospital did us good but you should be fair enough to let us know how many people because we heard the governor spoke that night that one person died and that was heartlessness on his part for me. You were not there you should verify. A lot of people died at that place. They had more than 30 army officers on ground and they were all shooting, so how would you now tell me that only one person died at that shoot out? I started combing that hospital from that day. We went to the general hospital we met with victims, some of them were already being attended to and our governor in Lagos State told us that they were going to foot the medical bills and all that. And I wonder how would you take care of people's medical bills without feeding the victims that were put in that condition? Because you are in office, you're active and people are taking medical processes without being fed, without changing clothes?

One of the victims died on account of negligence of the clinic.

Free citizens decided to come together and we started taking care of them up until the date when they are not too psychologically stable to go home, so we kept them in a safe place for them to be able to share their experiences too because I met with some families too that lost their loved ones.

They went to the mortuary to pick up their loved ones but afraid to come out and say somebody died because they are afraid. Some were saying 'we don't want government trouble.'



I've been receiving strange calls

I've been threatened severally, I've been receiving strange calls telling me, 'what do you think you're doing?' 'Your life is not safe' and so on. But for me as an individual, I am disappointed in my country for them to carry out an act of this magnitude and not own up. And for me, I thought they set up the panel to be able to douse the tension for a while and disperse people stylishly. That is what I think because the protest was all along gaining momentum and we were seeing transparency at some point. But when we started hearing things like if the Army are not coming, really there is nothing much we can do. It kills my feelings as a Nigerian citizen that believes in this nation, for me I think we are still in slavery somehow in this country. That's why the world needs to hear us because some of these victims still need medical attention, some of them need artificial legs, and some of them need surgery. In fact, there is one victim that had three surgeries and they made a mistake in one of the surgeries at Igbobi and they asked the victim to go and bring N500, 000. A victim from the shootout of October 20th, 2020, for them to correct the surgery that was carried out on him. It's so disheartening. I just want to call on Nigerians to wake up to a reality, we don't want to die, we are already dead. I took some of the victims to the hospital and there were no beds to put them on, we have to keep them in the ambulance for hours. These were the government hospitals and these are the people that will come and say they want to contest, they want to develop the system and all that, at the end of the day they come to oppress us and stylishly bully us but we are not afraid. But when you suppress people that are angry, when you try to suppress their anger and when it escalates, you won't be able to handle it. So why don't you do the needful when it's good for you to do it because it won't be good for us to have crisis in our country.

Do you know the guy that came to you where you were hiding who later sustained gunshot in the hand?

No, I don't know him but I saw his video when he was taken out. That guy that was shot at beside me, I was trying to find out what happened to him afterwards but a few weeks later I saw a video of him when they were trying to resuscitate him and I asked if he made it and the person that gave me the video told me he didn't make it. For the victim that was asked to bring N500, 000 to correct the surgery did on him at Igbobi, his name is Yusuf, but not too sure.

On DJ Switch video ?

In fact, as regards DJ Switch, because just the two of us were the last people on the stage. I was clamouring for people to sit down, she was standing right beside me at that time. We turned back at the same time to see how the soldiers were approaching us and so when we saw them coming closer and we noted that standing on the stage will not be safe for us we both came down from the stage and took shelter from that same rim and I held tightly because she was planning to go into the crowd, she was holding her phone and saying, Dabira leave me, I need to do this. I told her the bullet may hit you and she said, I don't care I need to do this and she was taking video live there. Probably if not for her we all would have been dead because she was one of our saving graces on that day to ensure that it went live. I think that was what prompted the General that came in because if not for somebody doing a live nobody would have come out safely. I mean those soldiers came to do a massacre. On the second day of that event, they came to clean up the place so that there won't be traces. In fact, I was conscious of her not being shot at. I held her hand for like two minutes and she kept saying Dabira leave me and insisted that she has to do this and started taking that video for live streaming.

Do you have the video of the venue before it was cleaned up when you went with Madam Oniru?

Yeah, I have it. There was blood everywhere. I have the video. When vultures were coming down that morning and feasting on that blood. They were just picking things and it was like ghost town that morning. They were still shooting but we jumped in through the fence.

Is it true that people don't want to talk...?

It's two ways; people were scared of the kind of system we live in. Then people were being suppressed because for days, I know guys that police were going to their home to collect their phones and delete the videos of what happened and breaking their phones. So, people were scared to come to talk, people were threatened not to have information on their phones. It's two ways. People will be scared because I knew of two people that worked on the stage that DSS went to their houses.

“We told soldiers we can't leave until we get ambulances to convey the wounded”

- Damilola Adedayo



I was rudely shocked over the Lekki Tollgate shooting on October 20th, 2020 because I never expected such could happen. Before the day of the massacre, I was there working as a Bouncer. We are the ones controlling the crowd and ensuring that no crime was committed. There was nothing like sexual harassment, no stealing, everything was just going on smoothly. We all had one mission which was to end police brutality and ensure good governance. So, everything was going on normal until that day when soldiers came shooting at the peaceful protesters at Lekki Tollgate. I was the one controlling the crowd in the front of the stage to ensure orderliness.

Initially when we were hearing gunshots, we thought it was an attempt to scare us away, we thought they could not shoot at us. Some people tried to meet the soldiers, but to my surprise I saw many people with blood stains, they have been shot at. Could it be a joke or a reality? I was still at the front of the stage and I said to myself that they can't kill all of us and I remained standing in front of the stage. At that point I could not run because bullets were just flying sporadically. If I moved from where I was standing, I may be hit by stray bullets. At that point I saw people who have been hit by bullets, they were on the ground. So, because of that I remained where I was until the soldiers surrounded us and asked us to leave. But we told them that we can't leave until we get ambulances to evacuate people who are dying to the hospitals. They were still shooting at us until when a senior personnel came and tried to broker peace. He asked us what we needed, we replied him that we do not need anything except ambulances to evacuate our people who have been shot to hospitals. As the senior man was interacting with us, there was one of the soldiers with earpiece who seemed to be having fun by shooting at us; he shot another person in the hand while the guy was trying to carry someone who had been shot into the ambulance. I have to leave there and crawled into the crowd. They didn't allow me to carry anybody until their boss gave orders to one soldier to assist one of our coordinators and they carried bodies into their van. Not one body or two, many. After they left, it was not up to 30 minutes, we saw some people clad in white and those ones started shooting again. At that point I have to escape through the iron net used to barricade roadside at the toll gate and found a hideout in a gutter beside the river till morning.

They shot live bullets not rubber bullets

All the people that were shot in the protest and we were trying to assist to hospitals were not allowed and they came and still shot some of them in the heads and scared many people away. Those that wore white even killed people more than the soldiers. I was able to peep through the gutter where I was hiding, and I saw everything that was going on at the tollgate. Some protesters remained in that place till the morning of Wednesday, October 21st before police came and dispersed them with tear gas. I was inside the gutter until around 7:30 am, when I saw that people were already coming out, then I came out too. At that time there were police on ground at the tollgate to man security there. Some people interrogated me and I shared my experience with them. It was real bullets they used on us not rubber bullets as they claimed.

On my way home that morning, there was one police station near Lekki Phase 1, as they saw us coming, they started shooting again. So, as I was running to escape, the bullet hit me in the leg, and I was rushed to a hospital at Lekki Phase 1. The doctor who attended to me there only gave me an injection and bandaged my leg. They put me in an ambulance and took me to another hospital at Victoria Island. They also gave me injection in that hospital and they said they want to check the leg whether the bone has shifted or not before they could do anything. When I saw that for two days they didn't do any tangible thing apart from giving me medicine and injection, I called my brother to come and take me away from there. And that was on Friday after the shooting. I went home and the result of test carried out on me showed that the bullet has caused two holes in my bone. Although the outer layer has been healed but I still feel pain inside my leg especially when I am working. If I walk a far distance, it gets swollen and that's why I use walking stick to assist myself.

But everything that happened at Lekki Tollgate that night, I witnessed the whole scenario. From the time soldiers came, followed by those who wore white who also killed many people and when police now came early morning of October 23 to disperse the remaining crowd with tear gas, I witnessed all.

I must tell you there is nothing that I can be afraid of again because the day came and I survived it. But all I am after now is that justice must be done. I cannot walk or stand. I can't do anything again. I need justice. The soldiers that came shooting, who are deriving pleasure in killing innocent Nigerians, one of them put earpiece in the ear and as he was shooting, he was dancing, probably he was having fun by killing innocent Nigerians, who were out on a peaceful protest to press home their demands. I want to see that particular soldier in the panel of enquiry set up by the government and tell Nigerians that he did not shoot or kill people that night. The panel has invited them up to five times, but they did not go. If truly they have no skeleton in their cupboard, why did they not show up at the panel? They were calling us names like street urchins, armed robbers, so on. Those they are calling criminals were able to come out but people who are labelling other people armed robbers and criminals were unable to face the panel because they do not want to go to jail.



I am a student of Akanu Ibiam Federal Polytechnic, Unwana. I came to Lagos ending of January for a one-year Industrial Training (IT). I came to look for something to do so that I can earn some money to go back home and pursue my Higher National Diploma (HND). Actually, when I came, and in the process of searching for what to do, COVID-19 started and everybody has to be indoors to prevent the spread of the pandemic. This lasted until the #ENDSARS protest started and on October 19th, my friend went to the Lekki Toll-gate. He sent me a video that he's at the Toll-gate and everything was bubbling, it was peaceful and so on. I told him that due to the curfew declared by the Lagos State Government I was unable to come outside.

But October 20th, I came out. We went from Egbeda and came to the Toll-gate around some minutes past 4:00 pm. So, when we got to the protest ground, I was at the phone charging point and my friend went to the Snooker's board. While standing there, foods and drinks were served free, everybody was enjoying and the whole place was peaceful.

**“My friend
was shot in the
chest in my
presence”**

- Edwin Augustine
Ekene



We were later hinted that soldiers will come and when they come, we should just be waving our national flags. Flags were shared free too. So around past 6 to 6:30 pm or thereabout when it was getting dark, the light went off and before we knew it, we began to hear gunshots and when we looked at the other side of the road, we saw the soldiers coming. My friend decided to stand up and make a move, immediately he stood up, the bullet came direct to his chest and he fell down. I also received my own in the left side while I was trying to help my friend, Promise.

While people were rushing try to help one another, I was lying on the floor for hours, so I lost lot of blood and when I woke up the following day, I woke up at LASUTH. I was not with my phone because I was unable to get to the charging point to pick up my phone. I sought for help from someone I saw to help me log into my Gmail to fetch contacts so I could make a call. That's how I called my girlfriend. She came and was there from October 21st that she came to the hospital. Again, I also met a Good Samaritan, I was with a guy behind my bed. We were there for more than two weeks. My leg was bandaged with the doctors giving us only pain killers. And later they told us that government has declared free treatment and that was when they fixed the implant in my leg. And since then, I've been alone before Miss Dabira came in to take care of me from the hospital.

After an X-ray, it was revealed that there was still a bullet inside my body. They claimed that they cannot remove the bullet. In one hour, they fixed implant in my leg. I queried them that why did they fix the surgery for only an hour, they claimed that because the bullet cannot be removed. And I was not given a good reason more than that. And since then, that's how I have been going around with the bullet with severe pains. If I should sit down on something that has no foam inside, the bullet affects me and sometimes makes my leg become stiff. I am unable to move my leg and that's why I am here.

We need justice. I am not here for my own predicament alone, at least I am alive, but for those that are dead and those who could not speak for themselves. That's why we are here and demand justice for them.

Can you tell us the impact the bullet had on you?

The bullet went straight to my bone and I was told that the implant will have negative effects if it should stay longer than it ought to and that may lead to amputation of my leg. And that is why I decided to cry out to Nigerians since I don't have money to do the surgery, to appeal to good Nigerians for help. We the victims of October 20th, Lekki Toll-gate shooting, we need help and support medically and financially.

Have they told you what it will cost you to remove the bullet?

I have not made any enquiry in that regards but I know the money will be huge because it's a surgery, it's not just to treat a mere wound. The bullet is still lodged in my body.

Do you still go back to the hospital and do they still attend to you?

Actually, they told me that the implant will be there for three months depending on how fast the bone joined together. The last time I went to the hospital, I went to the clinic at LASUTH based on the card given to me, I was attended to but I paid for every of my medication. I was treated at LASUTH and I do go to attend clinic. I've gone for my first and second clinic was on February 8th.

Flashback on what happened at Lekki...

The guy that was hit by the bullet in the chest, I've not heard from him since. The bullets were coming straight to us. There were a lot of people that were shot at including me. I am a living testimony because I still carry my own bullet around. They cannot say they didn't shoot at anybody or it was a blank bullet. If it was a blank bullet, I won't be having this kind of pain.





“They said they used rubber bullets but can that lead to amputation?”

- Faleye Olalekan

I hail from Ondo State and I am also the first born of my father. On that fateful day, October 20, 2020, I closed from work around 3:00 p.m. as a result of #EndSARS protest that was going on in many states across the country at that time. On getting to the protest ground, around 5:30 pm we began to hear information that soldiers were around. So, the person on the stage told us to sit down and raise our flags because we are law abiding citizens of Nigeria. We all sat on the ground and raised our flags and not too long after the soldiers came. They were shooting up and down, and suddenly they began to shoot towards our direction. Seeing this, I noted that the soldiers were not playing with us, they meant business and I saw how people were falling down as a result of bullets hitting them so I decided to run for my dear life. I saw a Toyota Corolla vehicle which I could take shield from, I carried the first leg and as I tried to carry the second leg, I noted that I could not carry it again, I was very weak and my leg was cold and when I looked on the ground beside me, there was already a pool of blood on my leg. Those who saw and attempted to help me were also running for their own lives, they could not do much so they abandoned me.

Later a guy came and used his cloth to tie the leg before another man came with some boys, and they carried me and stopped a vehicle to take me to a hospital.

I don't know the name of the first hospital I was rushed to but I was admitted into that hospital. They gave me injection with severe pain on the leg where I was hit by the bullet. The doctors did the little they could do before they referred us to another hospital and from that moment, I didn't know what happened again because I was very weak. I could not talk and I could not even move a limb.

On the second day when I opened my eyes, I saw that I was in another hospital where a surgery was already going on the leg. They looked for the bullet inside my leg but they didn't see it. The doctors said the bullet has forcefully gone out. After the surgery a nurse came and said, Lekan, can I speak with you? And I said yes and she said that I should keep praying to God because the leg cannot function again. She said the only solution left is to amputate the leg, otherwise I may die. Hearing this I was so sad. Later on, a doctor came and he didn't say anything. He tested the first leg and the second leg. One is functional and the other is not. On the third day in the hospital, the doctor came and said they are going to amputate the leg. And I was very sad. How will I live my life without two legs?

When my mother came to the hospital on the third day, they told her the same thing, that the only thing that could save my life is to amputate the leg. Upon hearing this, my mother burst into tears,

she insisted that they cannot amputate her son's leg. The doctor told her that if she insists that they cannot amputate the leg then she has to take me to another hospital.

On that day around 5:00 pm, I was taken to Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH). At LUTH they told us that there was no bed to admit me because of COVID-19. They later referred us to Igbobi General Hospital. On getting to Igbobi hospital, two doctors came separately and tested the leg and discovered that the leg can't function again. They told us that a surgery was going to be carried out on the leg that same night I was taken there. I was told not to eat anything. Later they told us that the surgery has been shifted to the second day in the morning. On that morning, the doctor came with a letter and also told me that the leg would be amputated and I must sign the letter. They said unless they amputate the leg, my life is hanging in the balance. I told them to take it to my mother to sign. She insisted that I must sign it myself. The letter was kept beside me and when my mother came, I told her what the doctor said. She went to discuss with the doctor and later the doctor came back and I signed the letter and I was taken to the theatre.

I spent five days in that hospital before I was discharged. They gave me some medicine and asked me to be coming for check up every 14 days and since then I've been going there for checkup, until recently when we discovered a hospital beside our house so we stopped going to Igbobi.

Later the coordinators of the protest came and consoled me with words of inspiration and since they have been helping me. They do send money to me and I pray that God will also help them and meet them at the point of their needs.

How does it feel anytime you hear government saying there was no shooting at Lekki Tollgate and nobody died?

When I heard them say that it was rubber bullets and not real bullets that were shot on that day and that there was no blood shed, I was surprised. Before I was hit by the soldiers' gunshot that day, there were several people who had already fallen down and after I was shot when they carried me, I also saw several people on the ground crying that they have been shot and they could not get up. So, I was disappointed to hear that there was no shooting at Lekki Tollgate or it was rubber bullets that were shot. It was very disheartening.

Where exactly did this happen to you?

It happened at Lekki Tollgate. I was part of that Lekki Tollgate protest. It was there that I sustained the gunshot that led to the amputation of my leg. There were several other protesters that day too that were also hit by the bullets, we met in the hospital. They claimed that it was rubber bullets the soldiers shot, my question is can rubber bullet break bones that will lead to amputation of someone's leg? The more they claimed it's rubber bullets that was shot the more people are angry because there are several people that sustained various degree of injuries at Lekki Tollgate.

Now what do you want the whole world and society to do?

I want them to help us because this is the only way we can forget the pains of what happened to us at Lekki Tollgate. Like many of us that our legs have been amputated, we can't go out alone again unless people support us. Therefore, the government should come to our aid and help us.

Are you still working?

Yes, I am a shoe cobbler by training. My family arranged for a vehicle for me that takes me to and fro. But I can't go out alone to work and make money. This has been a very sad experience for me.





“October 20,2020 was a nightmare I'll never forget”

- Ibeh Perpetual Kamsi

I live in Ajah, Lagos. On October 8th the protest started at Lekki, I joined on the 11th. When I joined, the protest was actually moving in a very fast pace and all of us never expected it so. I saw that the youths were serious and I never saw this kind of seriousness before. I saw many youths on that day so that was actually what pushed me on that day up until the last day the whole incident happened. During the protest everything has been peaceful, everything, from the organizing committee down to the whole youths. In fact, I saw elderly people, elderly men and women, joining forces to end the bad government and SARs, and they were in support of what they are doing. But October 20th was the day! That day I will never forget. It was a history to me; it is a nightmare to me!!

On that October 20th, we heard a news that there was going to be a curfew but the curfew injunction was that if you are at a particular place, remain there until the curfew is lifted. We all abided by the rule, since it is stay where you are, don't move, so we believed in staying where we were and not moving. Already we have been sleeping at the toll gate there, it is more like no leave, no transfer, we were there, so everybody was there, and our aim was until the government hear us, we would be there.

So, on that October 20th, a lot of activities were going on, we were trying to make sure that the place is secure, everybody is secure, the stage is secure, my fellow comrades were secured, so everybody is working in different directions, things began to unfold; we started seeing some signs, but we never took cognizance, we were like e no go happen, after they told us, hold your flag, sing your national anthem, nothing will happen.

We strongly believed in our flag, we believed in what we were told, we believed that ok by if we follow the instructions nothing will happen. So, that very day we were all believing in the instructions, so we got the news that it has been extended to 9pm, so we were like ok by 9pm they would have called off the curfew. The whole curfew, ok we were all hopeful. In all we were still in one voice, we stayed in one place, everybody holding your brothers and sisters singing the national anthem.

Lights begin to fade

I noticed that as the sunlight keeps going down, the street lights started going off one after the other and as they were going off a lot of us were scared that what is the plan of the government. What are they up to but yet we no go allow fear make dem bring us down, we are still on our game. We were still singing our national anthem and holding our flags but the worst happened at exactly 6.14 - 6.40pm, the soldiers attacked. They started shooting at us straight, they said it was blank bullets, how can a blank bullet penetrate and kill somebody, how can a blank bullet pull someone's skull up? When they started shooting, all of us were all scared, we were running helter-skelter, the funny thing was that they ambushed us; we were ambushed like a war zone. The soldiers ambushed us and we couldn't go out.

We were all at a spot, I guess their mission was to take everybody out one after the other; they were shooting at us directly, this was not a stray bullet. The bullets were coming I saw people dropping and I saw blood flowing. Someone beside me was shot, I was seeing it, so when the soldiers came in, they asked us to go and a lot of guys will get up to go and the next minute you will see the same set of guys that were asked to leave drop dead.

They will still raise their voice make una dey go, and the minute you get up, they will bring the person down. So out of fear when they said, go, we refused, shebi we get up you will kill us so what is the essence of getting up and being killed so let us remain there. Not until someone in a van came in. Definitely he was their boss, so when he came the shooting stopped; at least for a while and the guy came out and was trying to address the whole crowd. It was more like medicine after death, how can you address us when you have finished killing us.

When he said he wanted to address us, everybody said why would you want to address us, we don't want it here *shebi your people are killing us, make dem kukuma kill us finish*. The guy was like we should calm down and listen to him, nobody wanted to, the youths were already angry, you have killed our brothers and sisters, how do you expect us to keep quiet when blood have been shed and lives were been lost and a lot got injured!

Nobody wanted to listen to him but a brave comrade stood up. That is Dabira, she stood up and said sir can I say something and he said what do you want to say? She said we need an ambulance, a lot have been shot, a lot are on the ground, we need an ambulance to get them to the hospital, the guy was like where is the ambulance? She said the ambulance was somewhere, that we needed to get an ambulance, so that was when they escorted her out of the toll gate to go and get an ambulance. When she went to get an ambulance, I saw about two ambulances but the soldiers walked them out, they sent them back. I raised the alarm and other comrades shouted that they wanted to kill all of us, that the ambulances have been sent back. The ambulance did not go with a soul. We started calling, calls came in and we saw about four ambulances but only two were allowed to stay and pick some bodies. I assisted them in doing this. I assisted lot of them to the ambulance. It was in the process of assisting that I saw a soldier searching for the shells of the bullets. I raised an alarm, I was screaming guys find out the shells, dem wan hide evidence, not knowing that when I was shouting some soldiers were in front, they saw and heard what I was saying.

When I was escorting those guys to the ambulance, two of them stopped me and said *so na you be the stupid girl, you useless girl, na you dey shout make dem pick shells of the bullets, if you no comot for here now, I go shoot you*" I said oga the least you can do is to kill after all you have killed dozens here. The other one said so you still have mouth to talk, *if you no comot I go hit you with the butt of my gun, I said oga kukuma hit me*. I didn't know what gave me the courage, till date I still can't find it. I am still searching. I am still looking for that thing that gave me the courage because me, a small me compared with fighting a soldier. Today dem go say dem no kill anybody, tomorrow dem don kill somebody. Please we need justice because what happened on October 20, 2020 will not go uncovered. The truth must be told, justice must be served. A lot of people lost their lives, a lot are amputated, a lot lost their livelihood, a lot of them can't even spell their names again! A lot of them lost their jobs because they can't even get up again to go and do their daily activities, so what we are crying for is justice, justice is what we need, if the government doesn't want to answer us, please they should resign and let those who are ready to take up the cross, those who are ready to shoulder our problems come on board. We are tired of this injustice, we the youth of Nigeria we don tire, we need a change and that change is what we are clamouring for, that change is what we are crying for, that change is what we seek and that is what we want, so what happened on the 20th is not a mirage. It is not a film trick it is real. It was real, real like real, I see am with my korokoro eyes. I escaped death twice so if they deny that did not happen, me I will still say it, it happened, it existed and a lot of people are witnesses, they can't threaten everybody at the same time. We are tired of injustice, the government need to hear us, it is not just about compensation.



“I joined the protest because I've been a victim of SARS brutality”

- James Akhigbe



I am from Edo State but based in Lagos, Lekki to be precise. I was one of the #EndSARS protesters. The truth is that we started the protest two weeks or more before the October 20th massacre.

Everything was actually going on well and fine from the day we started; it was peaceful, it was organized and everything was going on smoothly until October 20th, 2020 that the Nigerian army decided to intrude.

A lot of things happened that night, a lot of shootings. It actually started about 6.46pm when we were protesting peacefully and all of a sudden, a troop of soldiers came in, so while we were protesting, we did not actually expect anything to happen, we know we are citizens of the country and we were actually holding our flags which actually means that we are peaceful.

We don't know why the soldiers came, if they were there to protect us or otherwise but to our greatest surprise when they were getting closer, they started shooting. The place was now in chaos, everybody was now running, a lot of people went down, a lot of injuries, some died. The truth is that I was there live and if anybody is coming out tomorrow to say that Lekki massacre didn't happen, the person will be the greatest liar on earth, because I was there live. I was there and I saw all what happened.

I actually helped out in carrying both dead and injured people. The fact remains that October 20, 2020 was a real black day. I helped out in rescuing those that got injured to nearby hospitals because I will rescue and the other team will take them to the hospital because I was on ground. Now I cannot mention many injured people I rescued because I lost count.

I can still remember few names, like the people I met one on one before the encounter, before the massacre, people like Nicholas, people like Sammy, these ones sustained injuries and they didn't die and few others but a lot of persons went down that day so if there is anybody that will come and say that Lekki massacre didn't happen, that person will be the greatest liar of all time.

Can you tell us how the soldiers were shooting and the position of their guns?

Now those soldiers when they came, started shooting into the air but as they got closer and they found out that no one was ready to move, they started shooting at us. I was very lucky, extremely lucky because I never thought that the bullets won't touch me even while rescuing people, I was expecting mine. So, if they said they didn't shoot at us they are lying, if you are close to us and your gun is facing the air, we know you are not shooting at us but hence your gun is facing the protesters, then what will you call that? The truth is that those soldiers came close, no other person came in, we were held there for a very long time. I myself, I actually tried talking to one of them, are you people here to talk to us or to kill us? Nobody responded to us, due to the fact that the place was dark we couldn't get their footage clearly probably maybe they planned it, the reason why they off the lights on the tollgate I don't know but we know that those people came with the intention that if we refuse to move, they will have to use every means to move us including killing us. I was very lucky that none of those bullets touched me, for the fact that the bullet didn't touch me never meant the bullets didn't touch other persons.

What do you do for a living?

I am a fashion designer and I have encountered lot of SARs brutality, harassments, countless times in Lagos, Port Harcourt, Warri, Benin, and Auchi zone. It is one of those things that motivated me in joining the #EndSARS protest because a lot of things have really gone wrong. Probably the government might not be seeing them or they might choose to ignore. So, since we are not hearing from the government, we had to go out to tell them peacefully, that was the reason for the protest so I was not doing an illegal thing that the policeman will see me on the road and search me and yet they don't find anything and yet they will insist on taking me to the police station just to extort money from me.

A friend of mine came back from abroad, just because he is a young man, he bought a car, they took him to the police station and collected NGN700,000 from him. The deputy commissioner of police was the person that rescued us from that particular incident. He got back the money for us, he actually proved to us that not all police are bad but there are some bad eggs that don't want to give up in extorting money from people.

I didn't just come out to protest because everybody was protesting, I came out to protest because I know those that have been manhandled by SARs officers.



“I've been frustrated after the #EndSARS protest”

- Joshua Samuel

I live in 1004 Estate. I work there as a house help. When I heard about the protest of a thing going on, I thought this is what I could join because it is part of the thing, I have been praying that God should even let it happen because what is going on inside the country is not pleasant at all. So, I started with them from October 12, 2020, and on the 13th. I had to go and force my senior brother to come along with me to see what is going on in this place, we came together, we were happy there. From the 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17, things were moving smoothly; there was no fighting, no stealing, everything was moving smoothly. I was even surprised that how do we love ourselves that we came out this large for the protest because personally I have been praying for this to happen for a very long time and I was very happy when it came alive. I was very glad I was among my fellow protesters protesting, I and my senior brother.

My own duty at Lekki tollgate was to use the barricade to block the road where vehicles are coming in. That was what I was doing, blocking the road and my brother was picking dirt from the ground.

When the army come, don't fight them

We were informed on the 20th October that the Nigerian army will be coming around 4pm, that we should be alert and active in anything that was going to take place and they cautioned us not to fight with these people, that when they come, we should not make any movement. What we should do is just sit down, raise our Nigerian flag up, that we should not make any move or stand against them. We said ok and that was exactly what we prepared for, and we were waiting for their arrival. By 4pm, 5pm we didn't see them, then after 6pm, it was after that those Nigerian Army came in and first of all what I noticed was that the whole light went off, because we were using light in the protest ground and they put off everything and everywhere was somehow dark.

When they were coming from the Sandfill area, and that was the place I was, when I saw people running towards the other side, I said why are people running, so I just said ok let me move forward a little bit because I don't want to take any step running without knowing what is going on. I walked a little bit to the U-turn where I also used to stay to block my barricade. I sighted the Nigerian Army coming from a distance and they were shooting, they were shooting up and down. I had to run back and stay in a far distance. But as I saw that as people were running, they were falling, I thought maybe it was only running, you know when there is a crowd, people run and people fall but unfortunately there was a lady I discovered fell down and I thought that it was an ordinary fall. But I later discovered that the woman that fell down, was actually hit by a bullet shot by the Nigerian Army. I didn't believe that was going to happen that day.

Later as the protest was still going on, we formed something like a circle and we were sitting down and then the Army formed like a covering around us kicking the barricades out; they were kicking everything out, and even before I was shot, there was a particular soldier that held me down and was hitting me mercilessly with his gun butt. He was hitting me right on my chest, it was my senior brother and one of our fellow protesters that ran to my rescue. But the soldier never wanted to let go; he was hitting me just because I was raising my Nigerian flag and I refused to get up from where I was sitting down. He was telling me, get up and I was just sitting down, I didn't even answer him, he was just hitting me and hitting me, after my brother rescued me, we still kept on, you know when stuffs like this happen, in different areas, some people don't have the mind to stay, they ran away, it was those that were courageous enough that were able to stay.

At that time, we had started seeing different kinds of bodies on the ground, it became something unbearable and it was so horrible. The same girl I told you about whom I saw on that point when the Army came and she ran towards the direction where I was staying, when I saw her fall down, I thought it was a normal fall, I was surprised I saw somebody carrying her and later dropped her behind the place I was sitting and other injured bodies and some dead bodies also. It was from this that I knew that this thing is really serious, and we just stayed there and kept on raising our flags in that circle that they kept us; they refused us access to go out, they said we are not going anywhere, after we saw the operation was too much, we started singing for them: How many people soldier go kill ooo, how many people soldier go kill? Eeeeh dem go kill us tire...eeeeh dem go kill us tire... that was the song we were singing, and after... I think before 7pm or 8pm, a general or how should I call him came in with a red beret and he was talking to us that we should not be angry that we should go home, that they also are supporting us that we should go home, that there is curfew. They are saying such rubbish after killing so many souls, I was even there when two of our fellow protesters ran to the soldier and were pleading that these bodies on the ground that they want to take them to the hospital so that they can save their lives but they refused. It was a white ambulance that was at my left-hand side, that ambulance was just there and somebody ran to the vehicle and he found no body and I don't know how later they found the person riding the ambulance and they took some of all those dead bodies inside there and some of the injured bodies as well.

After that we decided that two people should follow those bodies to the hospital but the Nigerian Army refused, they chased everybody away and they took the bodies away by themselves; up till today I don't know where they took the bodies, I don't know what happened to them!



The killing was too much, like when the Army came, the General came and told us to go back and we refused that we are not going anywhere, so they stepped back a little, after that I discovered that some of our protesters were at that same point where the Army was shooting us from, and it was the process when I ran to rescue a guy that I was shot at my back.

That day was something else (showing off his gun shot to the interviewers), and the doctors at Redington Hospital told me that they are going to do surgery on me to be able to move a bit. No one was able to come to my rescue with the guy I was trying to help, we were both helpless, people were afraid, so I asked him to go forward and shout that they have shot one of our fellow protesters, so that people will come and rescue me. I was even surprised that I have the little energy to get up with the bullet because I was still running with the bullet, after I was shot. I still find out that I had the strength and ran a little bit after the U-turn. I ran a little bit further before I knew I could not run again, that somebody that I also know from that same 1004 where I stay and work, was the one who came to my rescue. I remember everything that happened. I was even there when those soldiers shot back and when the police came, some of them are putting on black, some put something like uniform like green with their guns and so that army was still there, even when they were there, those people putting on mufti were beating guys mercilessly.

Before they found a vehicle that will take me to the hospital, it took a while, we couldn't see any vehicle because everywhere was so congested. It was not so easy, people were hiding, some have been hiding because of the Army because if Army see any of those injured people that are helpless, it is either they will shoot them to complete their death or they will carry them to their side, that was what they were doing but my senior brother hid me from them.

It was later that good Samaritans came with a Hilux van and that was how they picked me to the vehicle, even before they picked me, honestly speaking I felt that I was going to die, so I said let me say my last words because I never knew I was going to still be alive, that I was going to sit down here and be saying all these things am saying.

My senior brother and a friend called Star were just crying and it was two of them that took me to a hospital in Lekki and it seemed the hospital was full of people – protesters that were being treated from the shooting and they didn't attend to me; they just gave me injection that will sustain me to their headquarters. I know that doctors at Redington Hospital will ask me some questions after putting the drip on me like, where was I shot? How will they know that it is from the Lekki toll gate? That they want to know that I am from the Lekki toll gate, that they will discharge me to their headquarter.



Even while I was at the hospital, throughout that day, they didn't do anything apart from that drip, they just said that after today maybe tomorrow or next tomorrow that is when they will do the surgery. The next thing, I saw myself in a lab, then I saw myself in a room, they told me that it was time for the operation, they have already told me what they are going to do to me before, so they gave me injection that would make me unconscious and I won't know what was going on.

After the operation I opened my eyes and found myself in a private room on my sick bed. It was only my brother that was taking care of me at the hospital, even my hospital bill I don't know who is responsible for it. They gave me the bullets that was removed from my body, one of them came and took the bullets, I asked him sir where are you taking it to? He said if I need it I should tell him that he will bring it back and I said ok.

While I was at the hospital my brother went back to the toll gate and he came back weeping saying many people were killed, that I was lucky to be alive. In the hospital, I was only focusing on the news about what was going on because my mind was there, it was like let me get up and go back and still hold my flag up, I was ready to give my life on that day because of everything I saw, the souls that went down that day, I didn't say I am better than them or whatever but I thank God that I am alive and since the stuff happened to me I have been hopeless because that day my friends ran away, they thought that I was dead. They ran away thinking maybe they will come and hold them responsible or that kind of stuff. As I am talking to you now, me and my senior brother are homeless, so we are just managing on the streets, on our possible best to survive. It always hurts me when the government say nobody died, I witnessed so many souls that died on that day, so many souls died, people were injured, look at people, they cut up their legs, even at the hospital where I was treated; they showed me a guy who was shot on his hand, they cut off his hands, sometimes I don't even talk about myself, it pains about all those other people, they amputated their legs, their hands and still the government said they killed nobody because as am talking with you, I am talking with pains ... (sobbing bitterly). It is something unbearable, I am not that kind of person that like sharing my pains, but they told me to rest without no work for complete one year plus but how can I have the chance to do that?

When I am in the street, I and my brother, we have to fight for ourselves to survive. Still, I have to go on hustling on my own from the hospital. People are afraid to tell my mum what happened to us because I know the kind of mother I have, something might happen to her, I told my dad but I pleaded with him not to tell my mum, even till date, my mum never knew what happened to us. I am from a very poor family, no matter that my father is a computer scientist, he trains police on how to operate computers. I remember when we were young, we were very fine but as times goes on, all of a sudden, my dad's office just got burnt and since that time life has never been easy, because of my family that is the reason I am in the city.

It is not going to be well with all the leaders of this country, they said they did not kill anybody, I saw different kinds of dead bodies on the floor and I found out that the governors we have, is just deceiving Nigerians. They are playing us like a ball, sometimes you see government will say snake swallowed money, how?

Sometimes it pains me, like where I was staying before I came to Lagos, there are so many graduates that are riding okada to make ends meet. I want the best for me and my family. I was discharged on November 5th, I spent a week and three days in the hospital after the surgery.

Now I am alone, I easily get angry because I'm frustrated after the #EndSARS stuff. Me and my senior brother have been in hell. We are frustrated.





**“I saw people
being shot on
the streets”**

- Jude Balogun

I am from Edo State, I work at NAHCO as an agent. On October 20th, a customer called me that he needed me to help process export papers for some things. But due to the curfew I could not get there. On October 21st I said I needed to go and see how I'll secure the load for him.

I was going to NAHCO Ikeja when eventually I saw crowds of people protesting, singing 'we need a better government' and all that. It was a big crowd, and I stayed a little bit afar, but I was hearing gunshots. I wanted to pass by the other side, I heard another gun shot, then later as I was passing at Ojodu Grammar School police station, I saw this boy on the floor and I was like this is a human being, a youth lying down on the floor. I think at least maybe they shot him, so we were about to get to rescue him, and he picked up a stick and at that point we knew that he is still alive, so we were like let us look for a stretcher.

We saw policemen standing and we were scared, we started begging them, please, you people should not shoot let's help and carry this boy he is still alive. Many of us were not that courageous, so we ran to one hospital-County Hospital to get a stretcher.

On our way going, when we were carrying this boy, I was carrying him on the shoulder, I saw his head, the place was open, I was so touched and we were moving him from the front of the Ojodu Grammar School police station, they shot at us again, I heard the sound tatata-tatata everybody was running. At that point I saw another person hit by a bullet on the floor; the bullet hit him through the stomach. The boy died on the third day at LASUTH Ikeja.

So, we managed to carry the late Gabriel to a nearby hospital - Mother and Child. They tried their best, they helped us to normalize his condition, he was still breathing and at some point, he was moving his eyes, the black was going up, even the guy that put his hands in his mouth, he pressed and bit the hand, so eventually we removed the boy's hand, the doctor now said he had nothing to do, that he will advise we try and get a vehicle, that the quicker they get this vehicle, the better for him to survive the chances.

I was even the one on the street shouting, calling people that please we need a car, we need a vehicle, somebody at this hospital we need to take him to LASUTH or LUTH, so nobody came out and all of a sudden, I saw two police vans coming, then I pleaded with them. I was kneeling down on the main road pleading with them that please we need to rescue somebody to save his life, they said I should wait, they drove forward, they drove back, not quite long, army van, Hilux came again, I was begging they still did the same thing, I thought they were coming, at a point I was crying, so I had to call other youths that were around that we should please go to the County Hospital to get an ambulance, we got there, they said the ambulance is not around, that it even took some victims out, so eventually we saw one guy that came, that took his brother who was shot in the hands, we now begged the guy and said no problems. We drove down to the Mother and Child, they were even two, the other guy his name is Alhaji Taiwo, the same police station (Ojodu Grammar School) shot them, he was even among the people that were trying to rescue the late Gabriel.

We got a referral letter from the hospital and took the guy to LASUTH Ikeja, thank God they saw the situation, they immediately attended to him. That was what happened that Wednesday October 21 when Gabriel was shot. The following day when I came to the hospital, I saw Gabriel, I have all videos and pictures. I saw Gabriel when he was still alive, and I say thank God, then Alhaji Taiwo was like I am ok now I want to go home, I say are you sure?

They discharged him because the ward was too crowded, so I took Alhaji home, it was when I took him home that I even saw the video that I was carrying Gabriel into Mother and Child, I have the video too, so after that I went to the hospital, I asked what is the situation? They said we should go and get his family. Who am I? I said I am a good Samaritan. Ok, what they need now is that they need to do an operation on the head to remove the bullet and they need the family to sign and since I am not a family member I should go and get a court order. I was like, this guy just told me that the quicker they sign, the better is it for this boy, so why would I get the family? And where will I get the court order from? And you know the situation around the town now, so I was like you guys just need to go on, at a point I asked them to give me a form that am ready to sign. I signed. They took him into the theatre after much dragging and debate, the operation lasted two to three hours, they brought him out, I saw him, then he was unconscious and then I was even weak because I was running up and down trying to facilitate the process even when they have a facilitator.

To get a facilitator in that premises, was like you are applying for a visa, eventually they took him to a ward – BT ward, that was where we were and I was like ok, let's wait and let me see if he was going to open his eyes, he was on oxygen for some days in the hospital... The day he opened his eyes, I was like thank God. I posted his pictures and was like you guys should help me pray for this guy, then I was calling him unknown Michael because I don't know his name, so at a point he opened his eyes but he cannot talk, I was still like you are healed, I was just telling him things that will make him regain his self and at a point I was begging the nurse that this guy need to be cleaned and well taken care of. Some of them will say they do not want to lose their certificates to assist me to lift him when I want to clean his body, when I want to change his pampers, they said they can't do that and I was like you guys are not helping issues, only me can't do it. I was just doing it because I was just hoping and waiting for the day, he will open his eyes and say I should help him up, that was all my concern, at some point he was developing bed sore.

Aah, what is this, they were like since he is just lying in one place and the heat and sweat, eventually I was like I need to look for the family, I was chatting with a lot of people so a lady assisted with printing out his picture when his face was like ok, they can recognize him. We went to all these areas where these things happened and pasted a lot of pictures. One day, the very day the one that got me angry was the day I got there, and we were going to paste that picture, so I was like you people should change this bedsheet, change stuffs, the nurses there said I should not worry that they are going to do that, that they want to go and get a bedsheet, because of time I said ok let me go.

I left that ward around 9 or after 9am, I came back around 9pm, the same position we left that boy was the same position he was when I returned. I saw the conduit pipe that was fixed so that he can be passing out waste has been removed and the bed was messed up.

I went to the nurse and said you guys said you were going to change this, she said she was trying to clean him and change the bedsheet and the urine fell on her that was why she left it like that. I asked her if it is your brother will you not clean the piss and all those things? What are you saying? And this guy has developed bed sore. I got mad. I asked for the laundry room and they showed me, I went to the laundry and behold bed sheets are everywhere and I said whaaat!

I saw one guy lying down and sleeping and I said let me not just disturb this guy, let me just pack the one I want. I packed a lot, came back to the ward, shared it to everybody in the ward, the next morning, one of the admin came and he was like we heard that a relative of a patient came and did this and did that, I said I was the one. She even saw me and said aah Mr. Jude, you are still here, and I said yes. She saw me cleaning this boy. They do not care about taking care of the wounded.



“My brother was killed at Lekki Tollgate”

- Nathaniel Solomon



They killed my brother Aboka Solomon at Lekki toll gate protest on October 20th, 2020. He was killed after 9.00pm. Two of my brothers ran away from there to come and tell us that the army shot him there at Lekki toll gate! We got there. As we got there, I saw my brother's corpse on the ground. I fainted immediately. We got one of our brothers who has a car and we used it to carry the dead body to Oyingbo St. Paul Mortuary.

By 5.00am, I left to convey the dead body to the village even my people were now telling me that how come they shot my brother and I was not there. I told them that it was the Army that shot people at Lekki toll gate. So, on my way back, I had an accident at Gboko, Benue State. I was lucky to come out of the accident alive.

I work in Lagos as an Okada man. I bought my bike for NGN150,000. I ply the C.M.S to Alausa route. Now my bike has been stolen. I have nothing to do. And that my brother is the only person who used to help my mum because I'm not a farmer. He is the only person that farmed with my mum. He came to Lagos to hustle for small thing. He was working at car wash in Lekki. For his plan, he wanted to work small and gather some money to go the village and go back to school. Now they killed my brother, I have nobody. I have nobody, I don't know what to do; I have nobody. He is the only one who took care of our children. He took them to school. My brother was nice to me. He is 20 years old. I was aware that he was going for the protest. Each time I hear that government say people did not die at Lekki toll gate, I feel bad because they are telling lies. I took my brother's dead body at about 9pm – 10pm to St. Paul Mortuary, Oyingbo. I saw my brother's dead body before Lekki Roundabout in the middle of the road on top of grass where I took his picture.

I have gone to the #ENDSARS panel about it. As soldiers killing innocent people that are not Boko Haram or thieves. They came out to protest for goodness. I want government to arrest these people to make peace for this country.





“The blood of protesters lost in the struggle is crying for justice”

- Nicholas Anthony

I am Nicholas Anthony Okpe. I am an Idoma by tribe from Benue State. I joined the #EndSARS protest on October 11, 2020. The reason for the protest was for good governance, police reforms and #EndSARS and other things. I saw that most of the protesters were youths like me. I told myself I can't stay back. I have to join them. I volunteered myself by sweeping and keeping the surrounding clean around the protest ground. There was this day that we were told that those military people were going to come by 4pm. They told us that when they come, we should not fight or attack them. That they are going to share national flag to all of us because it was a peaceful protest where they provide food and water for us. That all we needed to do was to just sit down and be waving the national flag while chanting the National Anthem.

So, we were being cautioned that way. We were waiting till 4pm no soldier came. That very day the sun was so heavy, I took a break and went to rest. I went to rest because I was feeling feverish because of the sun that was too much that day. I later came back in the evening and I resumed my duty in the evening at the protest ground. I was standing by the barricade there when I saw people running, it was then I heard gunshots. When I heard gunshots, I remembered the caution they gave to us that when they come, we should not stand neither should we run. They said all we need to do is to sit down and be waving the national flag. I now ran and joined the protesters that were waving their flags. The shooting was sporadic, it was sounding as if they were fetching stones from the ground and pouring it on the zinc. They will shoot up, like some 50 meters away from me. I saw the two soldiers dressed in camouflage like men of war. Among the two, one of them shot me. As I dragged the barricade to myself my blood spilled on the barricade. It was then I knew I had been hit by a bullet. I began to struggle for breath. The rest protesters now rushed me from the protest ground to one car owned by one of the protesters. They took me to a hospital, on getting there, the doctor said they cannot admit me since it is a gunshot. She said they should get honey and when it was brought, she used it to clean the surface of where the bullet penetrated on my chest and dropped the liquid honey inside the hole. She then plastered it back. She gave me injection and advised to go to the nearest General Hospital at Ajah.

That was the first aid she gave to me, saying the honey and injection will sustain me to the hospital. With the help of the injection, I will not die in time. I overheard her telling the people that brought me to the hospital.

Hospital without a doctor

Seven O'clock did not meet me at Lekki toll gate; with all the struggle for breath and survival, on getting to the General Hospital, they said there was no doctor on ground. The okada man had to make a U-turn. They now said we should go to Grand View Hospital at V.G.C. On the bad road, the shaking continued till we got there. Thank God, the doctor just said they should take me to the emergency ward immediately the okada man dropped me. I thank God the man said they should take me to emergency ward, if not I would have died. Before I knew what was going on they had connected a pipe to me to be able to urinate. They fixed oxygen on me to help me breathe. On October 22, 2020 they now took me to the theatre. In the theatre, they operated my rib, and fixed a pipe, which they called 'foreign body'. The pipe will be bringing out the bad blood and bad water that were stored in my tommy. On October 25, I was taken to Lagoon Hospital for them to do my x-ray and scan. After that I was returned to Grand View Hospital. There was no specialist who could examine and tell the right time to remove the foreign body from my body. I was transferred to LASUTH at Ikeja. They admitted me at the emergency ward. There again, they still carried out x-ray and scan as well. They said that is where we can find the chest doctor that will examine my chest and know when and how to remove the tube.

When we got there, I was transferred from the emergency ward to the main ward, that treatment will continue there. The pain still continued. Sometimes when I hold my head, it will be very hot without me having headache. The pains I was having all through just stored in my head and that is why my head kept getting hot! They examined me again. They now said the bullet can be operated from the back without any complications. I now told them that I hope you people will give me the bullet back because I would need the bullet. They agreed saying they will give me the bullet when I'm discharged. I allowed them to operate it because of that agreement or else I'll have gone local. In my place there is a way they call it out. If I bend like this you can see the bullet shooting out.

I was discharged on November 7th, 2020, even though I was fully healed. They discharged me the very day they removed the foreign body. I asked for the removed bullet. We snapped pictures with it. Patrick Ukala was there running errands for us at the hospital. He even has a copy of the bullet. I waited for the bullet till November 8, 2020. They did not give me. I called Madam Dabiri who was always there for us because she's even the one shouting on the stage don't run, don't stand, sit down and wave your flags. She was the one coordinating us with the voice. She was with us right from the hospital till today. I told her the doctor refused to give me the bullet. She calmed me down and told me not to allow that turn to another thing. I left the hospital with Barrister Ogunlana because he came that very day in respect of the bullet.

The rain of bullets

Patrick Ukala was by my side when I was shot. We have known each other for a long time before the protest. We live in the same area. When it happened, I turned to him saying, *Patrick they don shoot me o*. He shouted and rallied other people to rush me to the hospital. They thought I would even die on the way to the hospital. When Patrick got to the hospital, I overheard him saying *my friend Nicholas they don kill am*. I heard his voice and called him. He recognized my voice and said thank God. It was through him that people knew that I am still alive. I do not really know any good reason that the military will give to me that will justify the use of live bullets on peaceful, harmless protesters! In short, the way the thing took place was just like it can't be true, they can't do this, is like rubber bullet. The bullet they removed from my body is long like this straight bullet. The picture is there. After I was discharged, we have the video. It is with Patrick. I saw myself in that video when people were rushing to help me from the ground, I do not know how they managed to capture that very scene. They said they did not kill anybody that there were no casualties. Let me pull my shirt so you can see. They said they used rubber bullets. This is where they shot me, you can see the hole there. They shot me on the right side of my chest. My sitting down is just by the grace of God upon my life. Just like dead bodies are lying down, one just wakes up among dead bodies. That is what I'm saying now. This is where they fixed the foreign body in my body. This is where they shot me and removed it from the back here. Have you seen it? Will rubber bullet penetrate somebody like that? I was even hearing people shouting, rolling that very day. Some people were falling down. Those ones that were falling down that I saw, I thought they missed their steps not knowing it was bullets that was bringing them down!

The soldiers are saying they did not use live bullets, they were shooting blank bullets or rubber bullets and they said it was Lagos State Government that sent them to come. They mentioned Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu. The governor later said he did not know where they got their order from. As a matter of fact, if the Governor did not ask the military in Bonny Camp to come after us, they will not leave their barracks because the military have been there for decades. They have never taken such step before. It is just because of interest, money they are getting at the Lekki toll gate. The Military are trained to kill, to face war. Why will you send such people to peaceful protesters? When there are MOPOL and police. They can even use tear gas to pursue the crowd. Who can bear it? The majority will not be able to stand tear gas. Everybody will have disappeared if they had done that, it would have been fair. If you see the kind of people they killed; they cleaned their mess saying no casualties. I am a living testimony. I would have been a dead man by now if not for the grace of God. This kind of attitude that our Nigeria Army and leaders are displaying is uncalled for. We are only agitating for good governance.

We want a Nigeria where a child of nobody will become somebody without knowing somebody neither having any connection. We say let's reform the police, have we demanded for too much? The brutality, extra judicial killings here and there, everywhere. There is one thing called accidental discharge. A uniform man will put the other person down and they will say to justify it, it is 'accidental discharge'. That is extra-judicial killing. Every Nigerian knows how SARS do torment people. How will an Army General come to stand and begin to lie to the whole world that they were only shooting up and that they did not shoot to kill anybody. It amazes me to see that man lying to Nigerians while they know that they really shot at protesters and they killed them deliberately not mistakenly.

“The shooting was continuous, it was non-stop.”

Thank God the barrister was cross examining the Reddington doctor, you removed the bullet from the client body, where is the bullet? The bullet is with the surgeon that did the operation. Is that bullet your bullet? Why did you take it? We need that bullet. That bullet is soldier's bullet. They asked the Nigeria Army to come on January 6th, they did not come, they shifted it to till January 8, yet they did not come. They shifted it again to January 23. They still failed to show up.

We were only asking for better conditions for the police. They should take their welfare seriously. At least, we are talking about good governance, you have to ask a soldier, because by the time you pay them good salary, and their children are going to better schools and they are driving good cars and living in a better place, they will try to do the job. Many Nigerians that are into police or soldier job now are into it because there is no job anywhere. You are paying a Policeman NGN30,000 and he sees a civilian with dollars inside brief case and you expect that man to leave that dollars for you and go with that NGN30,000.00? They should give them better welfare. All these we are fighting for, good governance.

This is a country where a Senator is earning how many millions of naira? All these have to stop. I do not think we have demanded too much. I want the government to investigate these people very well. I want all of them that are involved in the Lekki toll gate massacre to be brought to book. Grant us justice because of the lives of our fellow protesters that were lost in this struggle, their blood is crying for justice. Let our 5 for 5 demands be met. Every victim that has gunshot wound should be compensated. Thank God, some of us survived it, if not we would have been dead bodies. Those who lost their lives, let them compensate their families. Let the old Nigeria go away. In 2021 we want to see new a Nigeria. We want Nigeria to be the real giant of Africa that the whole world knows Nigeria to be.



I got interested in the protest when I heard it was about #EndSARS and bad government! I was very interested in the protest and I joined on October 11th, 2020. From day till the black Tuesday of October 20, I was at the protest ground before the Army arrived. When they came that evening, which was on a Tuesday, they had already announced to us that the Army will be coming; they called them *Operation Crocodile Smile*. Actually, they told us they will be coming by 4pm. We waited around that 4pm. Initially, when we heard they would be coming we thought they would address us, like hear from us and the reason why we were on the streets. So, we were all expecting them. They did not come around 4. o'clock again. They came around 6.45pm. When they came, they landed at Sandfill opposite Oriental Hotel. They started shooting from the Lekki Sandfill traffic light because that is where they dropped.



“Justice for the wounded and dead is what I am interested in”

- Patrick A. Ukala

Out of Lagos

They were walking in groups; the first group was shooting into the air while the other group was moving at their back. The two Hilux vans belonged to the military while another white one was with them. It was the van that usually accompany them towards Lekki toll gate where they normally collect money. That was where the Army stood. We, the protesters used the barricade to demarcate the Army and protesters. I was the one that arranged the barricade straight to the stage that demarcated the Army and protesters. I was holding my flag all the while as they were shooting. A fisher man brought a canoe and he managed to maneuver me from the back of Oriental Hotel to Fan City Restaurant Lekki. My friend now held me tightly because I told him my hand has been scattered. All my aim was that all my bones are scattered. I said they should hold me very well so that at least they can arrange the bones, that was what I was telling him. As he held my hand, I was feeling his weight. We now crossed from the back of Fan City to Reddington Hospital, I was thinking I will be the first person that will reach there. By the time we got there, I saw many protesters that were shot. Some on their waists, some on their legs, different types of shooting just like that. That was when I met another guy....

He was also there; they shot him in the leg. I met another guy Ola, that one is no longer in Lagos.

They gave us pain relievers, injection and gave us some drips. It was around 1am I was able to reach the hospital. From that, they placed me on that treatment till around 2am. When we started regaining our strength, one of us that had injuries on the legs at least can sit down. They now moved us to Ground View Hospital at V.G.C. That was where treatment was commenced on us till around October 29th, 2020. We were from there taken to LASUTH Ikeja. Nicholas, Okpe and I with one injured protester John Harrison, who has ran away from Lagos. We were all together at LASUTH. As for me, I was discharged from LASUTH on November 4, 2020 but Nicolas was discharged on November 8, 2020, while John Harrison was discharged on November 6, 2020. We all went there on October 29, 2020

They ran away from Lagos because of threats. I know many people who have come to me that I should find a way and leave this Lagos State for my own safety. I have a wife; I have a daughter. We thank God we are still here today and we are still alive. I believe that with us being here, there must be a purpose for that, which is justice. Justice must prevail. Justice must come through. Every protester that was injured or killed must be compensated adequately. When I say adequately, I don't mean NGN100 million, I mean NGN2 billion, the federal government is owing every protester that was injured or lost his life. The money is there; they must pay it. It is a must. I don't know actually how many victims were in the hospital. When I got there, the doctor said all the beds were occupied. Only the doctor can make the estimate of his hospital at that time. They have to go to their store rooms to bring foams for us to place on the floor, so that we can receive our treatment.

For the doctor to say the beds are occupied, that means the hospital is surely full. To my mind, justice must be done this very moment, so that those people behind the Lekki Toll gate shooting should be brought to book. I took a lot of pictures before the protest. I was taking pictures, after the gunshots, I lost my phone. After that I was still taking pictures. I have to let out some pictures. As for me, that is just the truth. I came out because of the bad government, the way the SARS and police were treating us.

I am a victim. I am a chef, sometimes, I do go to cover some occasions and will come back by 1am, sometimes by 2am. Police will just stop me just like that, they will just arrest me, they will take me to their station. There was a time police arrested me at Obalende Police Station under the bridge, I told them that I am not paying one naira. They should take me to the court. I don't know what I did. They said I was walking at late hours. I now brought out my ID card, I said look at it, I am a chef. I am a private person; I work for myself. Even this style of cheating, what is all these, they will collect money; N15,000, N20,000 from me. Government self is not helping issues. I have OND, I have HND in banking and finance. I studied at Benue State Polytechnic, Ugbokoro 2010/2011 batch. There is no job. Now that I am trying to manage still, the police men and SARS they don't want us to live in this our country. That was what made me to get interested in the protest.

**“We are ready to go back to the streets,
so that they can kill us again.”**





“We were told to raise our flags that soldiers won't attack us”

- Samuel Isah

I am a fashion designer. I joined the protest on Oct 12, 2020. I worked back stage. On that morning of the incident, I worked with the security team. We were told by the organizers that military will come by 4pm, and when they come, we should not attack them, we should raise up the national flag and be reciting the national anthem.

They said by so doing they will have no cause to shoot at us. By 3pm, we barricaded the entrance of the Lekki toll gate. We were able to pack some of the food items left to LCC customer care parking lot. Some minutes before 4pm, I saw a staff of LCC with a phone, I followed him but he did not see me. He was in the crowd recording. When he finished, I asked him why was he was recording the protesters. Kamson was there and I asked him if he was the owner of the phone and that he should give me his number so that I could call him. He had to confess that he was not the owner of the phone. His boss asked him to do the recording for him. Right there I told him to delete all that he recorded and he did.

As at 6.35pm, the military came in, we saw the protesters running. As soon as we saw them, we alerted others to sit down, raise the national flag and recite the national anthem. As soon as the soldiers are approaching the protesters, they started shooting into the air and directly at us and people were falling down. As at 7.30pm, we were at the LCC customer care reciting the national anthem. The soldiers were approaching the Lekki toll gate and billboard light was going down. As at 7.35pm to 7.40pm, a guy was shot on his right hip and a lady on her rib. We saw the staff of LCC and we told them to help us turn on the light. One of them asked whether we wanted them to lose their jobs, telling us that the order they got from their boss was to turn off the light. They ignored us.

I saw the military men throw three dead bodies into their truck. At that time, we knew it would be God that would take us out from that scene. The Commander came shortly after D.J Switch's tweet went live. That live video prompted those that sent them to stop the shooting. Their plan was to slaughter everybody.

D.J Switch's video that went live was what keep us alive. After the soldiers left, Policemen and SARS team came with four trucks shooting at us. We took the body of the guy that was killed. As at 11.30pm-12pm, we saw a guy wearing native attire holding a pistol. The SARS team ran into the crowd and we ran away but the guy that was unlucky was caught. They were beating him with their guns. We dropped his body on the pavement and told the police men to come and take the body. As we were leaving, the guy beside me was shot on the head and he died instantly. I stopped and went back to take his video. We were at toll gate by 2.00am. We left for Lekki Phase 1 in the morning to Lexington Hospital, Victoria Island to see some of the victims. I saw the guy that was shot dead. The same hospital that the Governor came saying there were no fatalities. The same hospital where we saw dead bodies and injured people. Police were still shooting till morning. Some were brought to the hospital. A guy was brought in the police truck. It is a lie that there were no casualties. There were some that were taken away. Some families have been threatened and do not want to have anything to do with government. I want to tell Nigerians that people were killed and many were injured. I joined the protest because I have seen how SARS maltreated youths.

They should come out and be accountable for their actions if they want to compensate them or give them artificial legs or hands. When they came in, I was able to capture the soldiers that were close. That video was true.

“D.J Switch's video that went live was what kept us alive.

**After the soldiers left,
Policemen and SARS team
came with four trucks
shooting at us.”**



“We took the body of the guy that was killed. As at 11.30pm-Midnight, we saw a guy wearing native attire holding a pistol. The SARS team ran into the crowd and we ran away but the guy that was unlucky was caught. They were beating him with their guns. We dropped his body on the pavement and told the police men to come and take the body. As we were leaving, the guy beside me was shot on the head”



“We left for Lekki Phase 1 in the morning to Lexington Hospital, Victoria Island to see some of the victims. I saw the guy that was shot dead. The same hospital that Governor Sanwo-Olu came saying there were no fatalities.”

“I joined the protest because I don't want to die in silence”

- Samuel Ashola



I reside in Victoria Island, Lagos. I work as an event planner. I am a survivor of the Lekki toll gate\massacre of October 20th, 2020. The reason why I joined the protest was because I work mostly at night going to events. We usually walk in the Island around 2am, 3am, 4am and 5am. There are some points where we meet the police. They usually stop us to tax us that we must settle them and if we do not settle them, they will have case against us. We usually settle them with some money. So, when I heard that there is a protest going on based on the fact that they shoot anyhow I had to come out that there must be a stop to police brutality.

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And for the SARS of a thing, they always harass youths. Some people might be sitting like the guy that it happened to that was about to watch a football match that got shot. He has a kid, a mother that has been looking up to him. They have cut so many young dreams short. So, that is why I told myself I must be a part of this. I am part of the "SORO SOKE" generation. We can't die keeping quiet. We should not die keeping quiet. So, we need to speak up that was why I was part of the protest.

When the protest was going on, I noticed that people volunteered to do some things; some might be picking up the dirt in the surroundings, some bringing food, some acting as security personnel and so on. When it got to October 20th, 2020, we have been hearing there will be "Crocodile simile" that very day. I had not slept on the protest ground for once but October 20th, I said I have to be there. I just wanted to be part of the generation that will witness the 'Crocodile Simile'. I said I will sleep on the protest ground today! So, we heard that there was a curfew. Later we still heard that same day that it has been shifted till 9pm.

That very day I volunteered to act as a security agent. We were busy deliberating on where everyone of us would position himself that was when we heard gunshots from FOUR POINTS side of V.I. We were even thinking it was hoodlums coming. So, we were rushing to that place. Who are those people shooting? Are they sponsored thugs or what? When we were getting closer to them, we now discovered that it was the Army. We too rushed back saying it can't be possible. Why will Nigerian Army be shooting at us? I now said let us go back to our fellow colleagues that we were there together. We got there and people were sitting down. We joined them sitting and waving the National flag. They just kept coming.

Initially, I was just thinking that even if they are to send anybody either the Nigerian Army or security forces, they needed to address us. They didn't even come close to addressing us. All they did was just to open fire. They just came and started shooting. There was a guy beside me that was shot and I was trying to help him. Unexpectedly I just saw that something hit me on my lap so I fell down. They were still saying if you don't leave, they will shoot again. The ambulance that was called told us he parked at Oriental Hotel and was not allowed to come towards our side. I had to help myself running with one leg while they were still shooting.

I am awaiting my day in court to testify that the Nigerian Army at Lekki toll-gate shot at us.

There was a guy before we reached Lekki first gate, he parked his car and helped me to his car and I sat in his boot, that was how he drove me to Reddington Hospital, Lekki. That night they gave me first aid and stabilized my condition. And because there were many gunshot victims, there were no bed spaces. The gunshot victims were treated on the floor. So those of us with stable condition were transferred. I was transferred to Grand View Hospital, V.G.C. I had Xray and treatment. There was one Sunday that Lagos State Commissioner for Health visited Grand View Hospital telling gunshot victims that he will try and clear the bills. The person who is in charge of the hospital said he was not expecting money from anybody. He was just doing it for humanitarian purpose.

I am very much aware of the threat from government. Since when it happened to me, I can't sleep in my house anymore because so many people know that this thing happened to me. Anytime I have to go to the hospital to change my dressing I have to walk outside my house before entering the car that will take me to the hospital. It was not convenient for me from V.I to V.G.C. The stress of going to the hospital from V.I to V.G.C. When I got to the hospital, I met Dabi but did not know it was by coincidence. I was supposed to get home on time but I got home late. When I got home, I was told some people were looking for me. I asked who were the people. I knew I only gave my details to them at the hospital. Since that very day I suspected foul play. My leg was painning me and I have to leave my house for some months I started receiving calls. Anytime they are looking for me, I am not around, I am somewhere taking treatment.

LEKKI GUNSHOT VICTIMS

At Reddington Hospital, they knew the gunshot victims were from Lekki toll gate. I have been listening to a lot of news day by day. Watching from television that there were no killings at Lekki toll gate.

The Governor first told us it was forces beyond his control that led to the black Tuesday massacre which took place at Lekki toll-gate on October 20th, 2020.

So, Army denied it. The Minister of Justice said it was sponsored thugs in army uniform.

After so many investigations on what happened, they later said the soldiers came from BONNY CAMP. They now said they used blank bullets.

To the world and Nigeria, I am a survivor of the Lekki massacre. I have bullet wound on my lap. I was treated at Reddington Hospital, Lekki.

“The protesters took me to hospital after I was shot”

- Stanley Chimezie



I am from Abia State but I stay in Lagos. I got shot during the #EndSars protests. I was walking with my two legs before, but now I can't walk again. I can only walk with one leg due to the protest. I worked in a company but right now I no longer work again. I am now idle and hopeless because I can't do anything again. I was coming back from work on that day. I returned home because they said there was no work to do because there were no movements because of the curfew. So, on my way coming back this issue happened so it started around 11-12 in the afternoon. I saw people running, the police were there shooting up and down. I started running too, in the process I got shot on my right leg. When I got shot, I was lying down beside the road. I felt unconscious but thank God, as I was lying down, I saw a tarpaulin beside the road, so I managed to crawl under it so that the police will not locate me.

Saved by the boys

However, on getting to the tarpaulin I saw two policemen sweating, they were in mufti and with black trousers and AK-47. I saw everything when they were shooting, after 30 minutes before those boys came to rescue me to the hospital with gun shots.

So, during the time I was in the hospital I was with gunshot wounds, I took 17 pints of blood and paid N22,000 plus. I wasted everything, so right now I am pleading for help, if anybody can help me because right now, I cannot do anything, even to go out, I can't go out, to do what I do before, I can't do anything now. I have to go back to my hometown.

I think there is a need for you to be emphatic that it was #EndSARS protest... you were not part of the protest?

No. I wasn't part of the protest.

On October 20, 2020, that was it happened during the #EndSARS protest; a lot of people were killed, a lot of people were shot by the police, so even me I wasn't in the protest, I was just coming back from work. A lot of people were shot, both innocent and the people that were protesting. So why did the police have to shoot? They don't have to shoot. There are lot of people outside and there are people inside their house that died that day, stray bullets hit some persons inside their houses.

I want government to help me, especially to fix my leg and secondly to help me with something that I can be doing for my future because right now I am stranded I can't do anything, I can no longer walk with my two legs again!

It was those boys that were protesting.

When I got shot, after the police left, those boys came to rescue me and they now took me to Igbobi Hospital. I was conscious then, they now took me to the hospital, so when I got there,

...the doctor said that my leg was damaged, that I can no longer walk again, that they have to cut the leg, that the bullet destroyed the blood vessel. He said that blood was no longer flowing.

My leg was then swollen and I could no longer move it. That was why they had to cut the leg and right now I only have one leg to walk.



#END SARS

THE STORY OF LEKKI SHOOTINGS BY SURVIVORS



Corporate
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