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COI QUERY RESPONSE

NIGERIA- POLICE CORRUPTION

The *Sahara Reporters* in July 2025 points out that: “The development followed earlier reports by SaharaReporters, which highlighted that Egbetokun is leading a police force hampered by corruption and the total absence of statutory allocations for the first two quarters of this year.”¹

In June 2025 the *News Chronicle (Nigeria)* notes that: “Celebrities flaunt armed escorts while markets are raided by bandits. The force is drained of capacity, not by crime, but by corruption wearing perfume. Officers aren't policing Nigeria, they're policing VIPs.”²

The *Peoples Daily* in June 2025 mentioned that: “The House of Representatives on thursday called for an immediate and comprehensive investigation into the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) following damning allegations of systemic corruption, abuse of office, and illegal sale of national security assets.”³

This document further states that: “He, however, lamented that "recent revelations indicate that this mandate is being grossly undermined by entrenched corruption and abuse of process within the Force.".”⁴

The Punch in May 2025 reported that: “ENDEMIC corruption within the Nigeria Police Force remains a grave concern for most Nigerians. Recent evidence, captured in a viral video, shows a police officer at a checkpoint on the Benin Bypass in Edo State demanding five litres of fuel or N5,000 from motorists. This is disgraceful.” Disgraceful police extortion.”⁵

¹ Sahara Reporters.” (Sahara Reporters (5 July 2025) Nigerian Police Spokesperson Muiyiwa Adejobi Creates Another Fake Group "Ndigbo Young Professionals" To Spread IGP Egbetokun's Propaganda, Silence Media Critics

² News Chronicle (Nigeria) (30 June 2025) Why VIPs Must Stop Holding the Police Hostage

³ Peoples Daily (27 June 2025) Reps want probe of alleged N50bn corruption, asset stripping in Nigeria Police

⁴ ibid

⁵ The Punch (30 May 2025) Disgraceful police extortion

The *East African Journal of Arts and Social Sciences* in May 2025 notes that: “The prevalence of corruption in the public sector and the police force has been a significant impediment to effective administration.”⁶

The *Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD)* in April 2025 points out that: “Many inmates are locked up for years without seeing a judge, simply because they cannot afford legal representation or bail. This shows a deep structural failure in Nigeria's justice system, where slow judicial processes, police brutality, and corruption continue to deny citizens their right to fair treatment under the law.”⁷

This document further states that: “Bribery and corruption also play a huge role, as officers sometimes fabricate charges to extort money or frame innocent people for crimes they didn't commit. According to Premium Times, numerous petitions and reports repeatedly called for an investigation into the criminal and unlawful activities of the now-disbanded SARS. These allegations included framing innocent people with serious crimes, falsely labelling and publicly calling people out, demanding huge bribes for bail, and the use of torture to punish detainees or coerce false confessions. These reasons were major catalysts for the #EndSARS protest in October 2020.”⁸

The *US Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC)* in April 2025 commented that: “Massive, widespread, and pervasive corruption affect all levels of government, including the judiciary and security services.”⁹

The *International Society for Civil Liberties and the Rule of Law* in February 2025 mentioned that: “Addition of estimated N3.5billion was made, representing 'criminal billions' seized at gunpoint from those that encountered police authorities at police barracks including 'bail fees' and monetization and commercialization of arrest, detention and criminal investigations as well as N1billion added as 'dark figures of crimes'; totaling estimated N15billion; or N10.5billion arising from direct and indirect roadblock extortions plus N3.5billion arising from 'Police Barracks Extortions' and N1billion arising from 'dark figures of police corruption proceeds'; totaling N15billion.”¹⁰

In August 2024 the *Centre for Democracy and Development* includes commentary on: “...corruption within the police force is a well-documented issue. Officers often demand bribes at checkpoints, engage in extortion, and misuse their power for personal gain. This corruption undermines the rule of law and allows officers to act with impunity, knowing that their superiors are likely to overlook or even partake in such behaviour”¹¹

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⁶ East African Journal of Arts and Social Sciences (22 May 2025) The Nexus between Organised Crime, Insecurity, and Poverty in Nigeria: An Exploratory Analysis

⁷ Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) (28 April 2025) Time to End Wrongful Imprisonment in Nigeria
⁸ ibid

⁹ US Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) (8 April 2025) Nigeria Country Security Report 2025

¹⁰ International Society for Civil Liberties and the Rule of Law (1 February 2025) Killings, Abductions And Disappearances Aimed At Violently Seizing And Pocketing Criminal Billions By Police, Military And Armed Non-State Actors Took The Center Stage Of 2024 Christmas And 2025 New Year Holidays In The South-East

¹¹ Centre for Democracy and Development (9 August 2024) *The insecurity within: Are Nigerian Security Agencies failing on their mandates?*, p.3

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