Q4 2020

October to December 2020

Complete quarter. Generated 29 Sept 2026.

PUBLISHED RECORDS	CHANGE ON Q3 2020	STATES NAMED	REPORTING ORGANISATIONS
10	+4	3	7

10 civic space records were published for October to December 2020, against 6 in July to September 2020. Harassment and Intimidation was the most frequently recorded category. 3 of these came from reports written at national level that name no state.

Records by category

Harassment	5
Arrests & Detention	2
Government Discourse	1
Resource Access	1
Legal & Regulatory	1
Citizen Engagement	0

Where records were located

Lagos	4
Federal Capital Territory	2
Oyo	1

Plus 3 national-level records naming no state.

Who reported these incidents

Rights monitors	2
News outlets	8
Official and court records	0

Channels Television	2
Sahara Reporters	2
Vanguard	2
Amnesty International	1

CNN	1
Committee to Protect Journalists	1
TechCabal	1

The records

31 DEC 2020 · FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY · CPN-0135

BREAKING: Sowore, Others Arrested In Abuja

On 31 December 2020 police arrested activist Omoyele Sowore and other protesters at Gudu junction in Abuja during a New Year's Eve protest against bad governance. The Nigeria Police Force said he had led protesters into a restricted area in defiance of a court order; Sowore and four others were later arraigned over the protest.

Sahara Reporters: https://saharareporters.com/2020/12/31/breaking-sowore-others-arrested-abuja
BusinessDay: https://businessday.ng/news/article/police-explain-why-sowore-was-arrested-in-abuja-protest/
The Guardian Nigeria: https://guardian.ng/news/sowore-four-others-arraigned-over-new-years-eve-protest/

19 NOV 2020 · NATIONAL · CPN-0136

Nigeria threatens CNN with sanctions but provides no evidence the Lekki toll gate reporting is inaccurate

At a press conference in Abuja on 19 November 2020, Information Minister Lai Mohammed called CNN's investigation into the Lekki toll gate shooting fake news and irresponsible journalism, said CNN should be sanctioned, and described the incident as a massacre without bodies. CNN said it stood by its reporting.

CNN: https://edition.cnn.com/2020/11/19/africa/nigeria-shooting-lekki-toll-gate-investigation-response-intl/index.html
Vanguard: https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/11/breaking-cnn-should-be-sanctioned-%E2%80%95-lai-mohammed/
Channels Television: https://www.channelstv.com/2020/11/19/lekki-shooting-we-stand-by-our-investigation-cnn-tells-lai-mohammed/
Nairametrics: https://nairametrics.com/2020/11/19/just-in-fg-reacts-to-cnn-report-describes-lekki-shooting-as-massacre-without-bodies/

7 NOV 2020 · LAGOS · CPN-0137

BREAKING: Nigeria Police Arrest #EndSARS Promoter In Lagos

On 7 November 2020 police arrested #EndSARS campaigner Eromosele Adene at his residence in Ikeja, Lagos, after he called for a protest. He was held for eight days before being arraigned in Lagos on charges including criminal incitement and cyberstalking.

Sahara Reporters: https://saharareporters.com/2020/11/07/breaking-nigeria-police-arrest-endsars-promoter-lagos
The Guardian Nigeria: https://guardian.ng/news/endsars-protester-eromosele-allegedly-arrested-in-lagos/
Sahara Reporters: https://saharareporters.com/2020/11/16/freeeromosele-after-eight-days-illegal-detention-police-return-eromosele-lagos

1 NOV 2020 · LAGOS · CPN-0138

Eight Days Later, #EndSARS Lawyer, Activist Gets Her Passport Back

On 1 November 2020 the Nigeria Immigration Service seized the passport of Modupe (Moe) Odele, a lawyer who provided legal aid to #EndSARS protesters, at Murtala Muhammed International Airport in Lagos as she prepared to travel. She was told she was under investigation by an intelligence agency; the passport was returned eight days later.

Channels Television: https://www.channelstv.com/2020/11/10/eight-days-later-endsars-lawyer-activist-gets-her-passport-back/
The Guardian Nigeria: https://guardian.ng/news/nigeria/national/federal-government-odele-differ-on-passport-seizure/
Inside Mainland: https://insidemainland.com/2020/11/09/endsars-lawyer-modupe-odele-finally-picks-up-her-passport/

26 OCT 2020 · NATIONAL · CPN-0139

#EndSARS: NBC fines Arise TV, AIT, Channels Television for unprofessional coverage

On 26 October 2020 the National Broadcasting Commission fined Arise TV, AIT and Channels Television N3 million each over their coverage of the #EndSARS protests, accusing them of airing unverified social media footage, including of the Lekki toll gate shooting. The Media Rights Agenda and the International Press Centre called on the NBC to withdraw the fines.

Vanguard: https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/10/endsars-nbc-fines-arise-tv-ait-channels-television-for-unprofessional-coverage/
TheCable: https://www.thecable.ng/breaking-nbc-fines-arise-tv-channels-ait-for-unprofessional-endsars-protests-reportage/
Daily Trust: https://dailytrust.com/nbc-fines-channels-ait-arise-tv-n9m-over-endsars-coverage/
International Press Centre: https://www.ipcng.org/mra-ipc-condemn-nbc-fines-against-3-tv-stations-over-coverage-of-endsars-protests/

24 OCT 2020 · LAGOS · CPN-0140

Nigerian authorities must account for death of journalist Onifade Emmanuel Pelumi

Pelumi Onifade, a 20-year-old reporter with the online broadcaster Gboah TV, was last seen alive on 24 October 2020 in the custody of security officers in Ikeja, Lagos, where he had gone to cover an attempted break-in at a government facility during the #EndSARS unrest. His body was later found in a mortuary in Ikorodu; in June 2026 a Lagos DNA report to a coroner's court confirmed the body was his.

Committee to Protect Journalists: https://cpj.org/2020/11/nigerian-authorities-must-account-for-death-of-journalist-onifade-emmanuel-pelumi/
Media Foundation for West Africa: https://mfwa.org/over-four-months-after-nigerian-authorities-yet-to-account-for-journalist-pelumi-onifades-murder/
Sahara Reporters: https://saharareporters.com/2024/09/06/lagos-state-chief-coroner-probe-journalist-pelumi-onifades-death-during-2020-endsars
Pulse Nigeria: https://www.pulse.ng/story/after-6-years-dna-confirms-what-happened-to-missing-journalist-pelumi-onifade-202606280804197 1724

20 OCT 2020 · LAGOS · CPN-0141

Nigeria: Killing of #EndSARS protesters by the military must be investigated

On the evening of 20 October 2020 soldiers of the Nigerian Army opened fire on unarmed #EndSARS protesters gathered at the Lekki toll gate in Lagos. Amnesty International reported that at least 12 protesters were killed. The Lagos State judicial panel of inquiry later found that soldiers shot, injured and killed unarmed protesters without provocation or justification.

Amnesty International: https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/press-release/2020/10/killing-of-endsars-protesters-by-the-military-must-be-investigated/
Vanguard: https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/10/lekki-tollgate-shooting-amnesty-international-releases-investigative-timeline/
The Guardian Nigeria: https://guardian.ng/news/panel-says-nigerian-troops-massacred-endsars-protesters-at-lekki-toll-gate/

14 OCT 2020 · FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY · CPN-0142

Armed thugs attack #EndSARS protesters in Abuja

On 14 October 2020 men armed with machetes and sticks attacked #EndSARS protesters gathered at Berger roundabout in Abuja, injuring some demonstrators and vandalising vehicles. The FCT Commissioner of Police said five vehicles were vandalised and described the incident as a clash between protesters for and against SARS.

Vanguard: https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/10/armed-thugs-attack-endsars-protesters-in-abuja/
TheCable: https://www.thecable.ng/breaking-armed-thugs-attack-abuja-endsars-protesters-destroy-cars/
Premium Times: https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/420797-endsars-hoodlums-attack-abuja-protesters.html

13 OCT 2020 · NATIONAL · CPN-0143

#EndSARS: Government forces allegedly attempting to sabotage crowdfunding efforts

During the #EndSARS protests the Feminist Coalition, which was raising donations to support the protests, reported that its bank account had been deactivated and its Flutterwave donation link shut down. The coalition asked supporters to donate in bitcoin instead; Flutterwave denied that the Central Bank had questioned it over the donations.

TechCabal: https://techcabal.com/2020/10/13/endsars-flutterwave-crowdfunding-links-shut-down/
CoinDesk: https://www.coindesk.com/tech/2020/10/16/nigerian-banks-shut-them-out-so-these-activists-are-using-bitcoin-to-battle-police-brutality
Techpoint Africa: https://techpoint.africa/2020/10/14/flutterwave-denies-cbn-questioning-bitcoin-surges/

10 OCT 2020 · OYO · CPN-0144

#EndSars: Young Nigerian Jimoh Isiaq Killed In Ogbomosho, Seven Others Injured

On 10 October 2020 Jimoh Isiaq, 20, was shot dead in Ogbomoso, Oyo State, when police dispersed #EndSARS protesters; seven other people were injured. He died at Bowen University Teaching Hospital. Police denied shooting at anyone; Amnesty International said he was shot by the police.

Channels Television: https://www.channelstv.com/2020/10/10/endsars-protester-jimoh-isiaq-killed-in-ogbomosho-seven-others-injured/
The Guardian Nigeria: https://guardian.ng/news/police-shoot-dead-bystander-during-endsars-protest-in-ogbomoso/
P.M. News: https://pmnewsnigeria.com/2020/10/11/endsars-how-jimoh-isiaq-was-killed/
CNN: https://www.cnn.com/2020/10/13/africa/nigeria-police-sars-victims-intl

How this report was compiled

Every record in this report is compiled by hand from reports published by named rights monitors, news outlets and official bodies, and links to the source it draws on. Each record is dated to the incident where its source gives that date, and otherwise to the date the source was published. The figures show what has been recorded, not the full extent of what has happened: incidents that were never reported do not appear, and a state with few records is not necessarily a state where little took place.