

GLOBAL OUTCRY FOR CHANGE IN NIGERIA TO TACKLE

Anita Tejaiye

THE WORLD has been rocked by the recent events that have been taking place in Nigeria with police brutality by the Special Anti-Robberies Squad.

There has been international outrage following the tyrannical actions of the SARS and also the inadequate response by the Nigerian government to resolve this issue. There have been strong calls for the government to act more decisively with hashtag END-SARS trending globally. The SARS were first formed in 1992 in an attempt to reduce the rates of armed robberies and other serious crimes.

Their main task was to facilitate arrests of criminals and armed robbers. However, SARS were later given increased powers which emboldened them to carry arms in public.

Since their formation they have co



Blood stained nigerian flag, image, left, which has since gone viral on social media, and right, picture taken by Oyanfe Olarinde during one of the protests in Nigeria



MASS RALLIES IN POLAND OVER RESTRICTIVE RULING ON ABORTION

Anita Tejaiye

THERE HAVE been mass protests across Poland with thousands of people defying coronavirus restrictions implemented by the Government in order to vocalise their outrage.

Polish people are frustrated with the at the decision made by the high court on the 22nd of October regard-

LEADERS ARE TAKING TIME TO DEBATE THE CONTESTED DECISION

ing abortion laws. The High court ruled that women can no longer abort fetuses with congenital defects because this would violate the constitution. However, in cases where the woman's life is at risk or where a crime such as incest and rape has taken place, an abortion is permitted.

The Polish government has had to delay the implementation of this ruling following the nationwide protests denouncing the decision.

The ruling is seen by many as extremely restrictive. Therefore, the Prime Minister, Mateusz Morawiecki has been appealing for protestors and opposition legislators to converse and reach a resolve. A government official has also stated that leaders are taking time to debate the contested decision.

The ruling remains unpublished and therefore has no legal power as of yet.



Above : image from a protest held on October 23, 2020 in Krakow. © Jakub Wlodek/ Agencja Gazeta via Reuters

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year following a viral video which showed the SARS killing an innocent man in Delta State.

ciala have denied that there had been any fatalities during the protests.

However, Amnesty International on October 19th recorded that at least 15 innocent protestors had been killed.

President Buhari stated on October 11th that the SARS would officially be disbanded. However, many are dissatisfied with this decision because the Government have previously promised the dissolution of the SARS.

A Nigerian student at the University of Kent, stated that when he heard about the current crisis in Nigeria he felt sadness because "when the movement gained traction and people vocalised their frustrations with the SARS the government chose to send out more SARS to kill more people rather than acknowledge peoples discontent and try to find a reasonable

solution".

Additionally, he expressed his pessimism that there would be an end to this issue because he stated that "If you look back over the past five years there have been protests against similar police departments and what the government usually does is promise to reform the department when in actuality all they do is create the same department under the pretext of a new name."

Finally, he stated that in order for the relationship between Nigerian citizens and the police to improve "the police would need to be retrained in order to carry out their roles more responsibly. Likewise, the Government would need to increase the wages of the police in order to incentivise them not to abuse their power. Lastly, an independent review board of the police

Over the past five years there have been protests against similar police departments

Since this video there have been international protests, many were outraged by the fact that government offi-

The number of deaths recorded by Amnesty International since the start of the protests

mitted several human rights abuses such as torture, unlawful detention and extortion and extrajudicial killings.

As a result of these crimes there were previous protests across Nigeria in 2017.

The problem resurfaced again this

Terror attack in Vienna calls to question the adequacy of preventative measures



Above : Twenty-year-old Kujtim Fejzulaj posted an instagram photograph which showed him with two weapons that he later used during the terror attack

TERROR r attack in Austria's capital, Vienna which left four people dead and 23 injured. The shooting took place on the 2nd November, in the evening on Seitensstetengasse where a heavily armed man opened fire at people in cafes and restaurants.

The perpetrator was released early from jail in December

Special forces quickly arrived at the scene and opened fire at the assailant who shot and killed a police officer.

The perpetrator was shot and killed shortly after. Initially, the police believed that the gunman acted with accomplices because many people described seeing several men.

Following this terror attack a major anti-terrorist operation began and po-

lice barricaded the city centre in an attempt to try to intercept any suspects.

Police in the neighbouring countries of Czech Republic and Germany increased the checks at their borders in case any suspects tried to flee outside of Vienna.

The police stated that there were six crime scenes in Vienna. Additionally, the police have since discovered that the gunman was acting alone. However, Swiss police have detained two men who they believe could be colleagues of the perpetrator. It was later discovered that the gunman posted a picture on social media earlier that day with his weapons.

Since the attack the gunman has been identified as 20-year-old Islamist terrorist, he was released early from jail in December which begs the question of how adequate the system used to determine early release is.