



The Impact of State and Non-State Actors on Human Rights Violations in South-eastern Nigeria: A Study of the Indigenous Peoples of Biafra (IPOB) Movement and Government Responses

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ABSTRACT

This research studies the impact of state and non-state actors on human rights violation in the southeastern region in Nigeria, emphasizing the conflict between the Indigenous Peoples of Biafra (IPOB) movement and the Nigerian government's responses. The region has witnessed a significant record of human rights abuses which is caused by both the IPOB group and the Government during their ongoing conflict. This research seeks to analyze how both the state's security forces and IPOB's activists' activities contribute to the violation of the civilian's human rights, as well as the effects of this conflict. The primary objective of the study is to evaluate the impact of both the state and non-state contributions to the abuse of human rights. The study area is located in the south-eastern region Nigeria, comprising of five (5) states; Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo states. Using a semi-structured questionnaire, the research employs a qualitative research approach to conduct with a sample size (250 respondents), interviews on the people located in the five states of the region. The research findings revealed that both the IPOB and the Nigerian government have been equally responsible for the human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings, unlawful detentions, and violence against civilians. The Nigerian government's heavy-handed military approach has not only accelerated the conflict but also led to widespread accusations of brutality, while IPOB's retaliation has similarly resulted in

Keywords: Impact, Indigenous Peoples of Biafra (IPOB), Human rights, Human rights violation, Conflict, Nigerian Government, South-eastern Region, Nigeria.



1.0 Introduction:

According to Clément and Pfeifer (2021), human rights violations remain a critical concern globally, often manifesting in conflict zones where state and non-state actors clash over power, ideology, and control. The violation of human rights has continued to be a major global concern which is often seen in conflicting countries where state and non-state actors compete over power, ideology and control.

In the south eastern region of Nigeria which comprises five (5) states namely; Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo, the dominance of the emerging separatist movement has exacerbated issues around security, national sovereignty and human rights (Ejiofor, 2024).

The most popularly known movement in the south eastern region is the Indigenous Peoples of Biafra (IPOB) which clamours for the rights for the southeastern regions to separate from Nigeria and form their independent state named; Independent Biafra State (also known as the “Land of the rising sun”). This IPOB movement led by Nnamdi Kanu, has been a major key player in resurrecting the Biafra Independence Movement which was initially started during the Nigerian Civil War in the year 1967-1970.

This research aims to examine the impact of both state and non-state actors on human rights violations in Southeastern Nigeria, focusing on the IPOB movement and the Nigerian government’s responses.

1.1 Research Questions:

The research aims to get answers to this main question; How have state and non-state actors contributed to human rights violations in Southeastern Nigeria in the context of the IPOB movement and the Nigerian government’s response?

It equally shades more light and provides insights on several sub-questions such as;

1. In what ways have the actions of the Nigerian government and security forces led to human rights violations in their efforts to suppress the IPOB movement?
2. How have non-state actors, including IPOB and other groups, contributed to human rights violations in Southeastern Nigeria?
3. What are the experiences and perspectives of affected civilians in Southeastern Nigeria?
4. What are the implications of these human rights violations on peace, stability, and development in the region?

1.2 Research Objectives:

The broad objective of the study is to analyze the impact of the Nigerian Government and the IPOB group in the human rights violation in the south-eastern region in Nigeria.

The Specific objectives are to;

- I. Assess the characteristics of the population in the south-eastern region in Nigeria.
- Ii. Examine the actions of the Nigerian State, especially its military and state security, have contributed to human rights abuse in the southeastern region.
- Iii. Analyze the role of IPOB as a non-state actor in committing violence and the extent of its involvement in human rights violations.



Iv. Explore the impact of these human rights violations on local communities in Southeastern Nigeria, focusing on the experiences of civilians.

V. Propose policy recommendations for reducing human rights violations while balancing the need for security and addressing the grievances that fuel secessionist movements like IPOB.

1.3 Significance

This research is beneficial in academic contribution through understanding the impact of the actions of the state and non-state players of human rights violation in Southeastern region of Nigeria. It equally aims to develop and recommend essential strategies for peace building in Southeastern Nigeria between the state and non-state actors.

This research will serve as an advocacy by amplifying the voices of civilians in Southeastern Nigeria, who are often the most affected by the conflict.

2.0 Literature Review

This literature review explores the extensive body of work related to human rights violations in Southeastern Nigeria, particularly in the context of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) movement and the Nigerian government's responses. Scholars and human rights organizations have examined the dynamics of secessionist movements, state repression, and the complex role of non-state actors like IPOB. This review highlights major themes in the existing literature, including the historical context of IPOB's emergence, the nature of state repression, the militarization of IPOB, and the resultant impact on civilian populations.

A substantial body of literature has analyzed the historical roots of IPOB and its resurgence in the early 2000s. Baxter (2015) state that "the IPOB movement traces its origin to the Biafra War that occurred in 1967-1970. A civil conflict in Nigeria that resulted in a failed attempt by the Southeastern region, dominated by the Igbo ethnic group, to separate from Nigeria. Onyemaobi et.al, (2023) argued that the reformed IPOB group's advocacy is deeply connected to lingering resentments from the war and the perceived marginalization of the Igbo people in Nigerian politics and economic development.

Onu et.al., (2022) stated that despite the 3Rs (Reconciliation, Reconstruction and Rehabilitation) policy that was implemented forty (40) years ago, the Igbos (also known as Ndi-Igbo) are not only marginalized, but equally eliminated and prevented from enjoying political power and other benefits in a diverse ethnic and cultural country.

The IPOB group, fuelled by the historical resentments has employed modern technological tools like radio programs and social media to garner supporters. In a publication by George et.al, (2024), they stated that "The approach used by the IPOB is propaganda techniques of incisive and inflammatory statements that sounds convincing to the Ndi-Igbo but speaks down on the Nigerian Government.

This historical context is critical in understanding why IPOB has gained widespread appeal in the region and why it has become a prominent actor in Southeastern Nigeria's political landscape.

2.1 State Repression and Human Rights Violations

Adigun (2018), stated that violent actions from activist group often leads to an increase in state repression, thereby separating the activist group from the non-activist supporters, thereby extinguishing the unity that the movement needs during an intense repression. The Nigeria military uses brute force in suppressing IPOB groups and their activities, which has resulted in



an escalating human rights violation. Hansen (2020) in his publication reported that at least 10 unarmed IPOB Pro activists were killed in chilling crackdown.

Obiukwu and Njoku (2024) stated that the IPOB group is fuelled by a feeling of victimization and marginalization and that the movement constitutes a threat to national security. The Nigeria military have been reported to have been involved in the death of at least 150 people during the ongoing conflict between the Nigerian government and the IPOB group (Obiukwu and Njoku, 2024).

Reader (2020) added that after the increased tension between the Nigerian government and the IPOB group, the government has constantly authorized several military operations with the sole goal and objective of eradicating the IPOB group, activists and supporters from the south-eastern region. The Operation Python Dance 1, 2, and 3 which was one of the authorized military operation was reported to have led to the arrest and detention of some individuals who are not members of the IPOB group (Reader, 2020).

Nwankpa (2021) noted that the Nigerian government's declaration of IPOB as a terrorist organization in 2017 further escalated state repression, as it did not get international and worldwide recognition and a nod of approval unlike when Boko Haram was first listed as a terrorist group. Instead, all it got was a national and international condemnation.

Chukwudi et.al, (2019) argues that the governments only dependent on military strategies to manage IPOB, and that such actions have not only failed to suppress the movement but have also led to gross human rights violations. This form of state repression, increases tensions and fans the flames for further radicalization within IPOB, contributing to a cycle of violence where human rights abuses continue unchecked (Chukwudi et.al, 2019).

Initially, the IPOB group paraded itself as a peaceful secessionist movement. However, recent reports suggest that the organization has engaged in acts of violence and human rights violations, especially since the establishment of its armed wing, the Eastern Security Network (ESN), in 2020 (Odigbo, 2023).

The IPOB's shift from non-violent acts like protest to militancy has crossed the lines between resistance and insurgency. While the IPOB argues that the ESN was initiated to defend the Igbo communities from Fulani herdsmen and other perceived threats, however the presence of this armed group has escalated violent clashes with Nigerian security forces, leading to civilian casualties and increased instability in the region.

IPOB's taking up arms has affected civilians, as both the state and IPOB are responsible for human rights abuses. Civilians often find themselves caught between the violent confrontations of IPOB militants and Nigerian security forces. Reports of kidnappings, extortion, and attacks on police stations and government buildings linked to IPOB groups suggest that the IPOB movements are not free from guilt in the human rights violations observed in the region.

2.2 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

2.2.1. Social Movement Theory

Social movement theory helps to understand how and why groups like IPOB emerge, mobilize, and engage in collective action.

Diani (1992) defined Social movement as the interconnection of informal interactions between individuals, groups and/or organizations, engaged in political or cultural conflicts, on the basis of shared collective identities.



The social movement theory studies how various actions arise and develop within societies, often driven by groups seeking political or social change, and has been developed from various theories such as **mass society theory** and **relative deprivation theory** to modern frameworks like **resource mobilization theory** and **framing theory** (McCarthy and Zald, 1977).

In a publication by Van and Klanderman (2009), they quoted that “The French psychologist Le Bon, a founding father of collective action studies, regarded all street protest as a form of deviant behaviour”. IPOB’s formation and actions can be analyzed through the lens of grievance theory, which suggests that social movements arise when a group perceives systematic deprivation or injustice—such as political marginalization or economic inequality.

2.2.2. Conflict Theory

This conflict theory states that societal tensions and conflicts arise from inequality, power struggles, and competing interests between groups. **Karl Marx postulated this theory**, stating that societal conflict arises from the economic struggles between the bourgeoisie (owners of production) and the proletariat (working class) (Karl Marx, 1848). Marx's ideas laid the foundation for later conflict theories in sociology.

Haralambos and Holborn (2013) stated that conflict theory studies society as always being in constant struggle between groups competing for power and other resources. It emphasizes the role of inequality, power, and social conflict, asserting that societal institutions and norms are often shaped by the interests of those in power, to maintain their dominance over less privileged groups.

In the context of IPOB, conflict theory helps to explain the clash between the Nigerian state and the secessionist group as a struggle for autonomy, identity, and control over political resources.

2.2.3. Human Rights Theory

John Locke (1689) founded this theory and it states that “every individual possesses inherent rights simply by virtue of being human, regardless of nationality, gender, race, or social status”. These rights include civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights.

Human rights theory provides assistance for evaluating the actions of both IPOB and the Nigerian government in terms of international human rights standards. This theory emphasizes the universality, inalienability, and indivisibility of rights, such as the right to life, freedom of assembly, and freedom from torture and arbitrary detention.

2.2.4. Theory of State Repression

The theory of state repression explains how governments respond to perceived threats, particularly those posed by dissident groups like IPOB. Repression refers to the use of coercive measures—such as censorship, imprisonment, and military force—to silence opposition and maintain control.

According to Davenport (2007), the state repression theory states that the government, as a strategy to curtail opposition and exert dominance uses coercive measures to quieten opposition movement. It highlights that state actions are often aimed at discouraging political challengers, but these repressive tactics may also trigger resistance, conflict, and unintended social instability.

2.2.5. Fragile State Theory

Nigeria, in dealing with the IPOB movement, demonstrates features of what is known as a fragile state, where the government struggles to maintain control, provide basic services, and protect human rights. Fragile state theory examines how internal conflicts, weak institutions, and poor governance can exacerbate violence and human rights abuses.

Fragile states are characterized by internal conflicts, weak institutions, and governance deficits, which impair their ability to function effectively (Rotberg, 2003).

2.2.6 General Comments

The conflict between the Nigerian government and the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) in Southeastern Nigeria can be analyzed through multiple theoretical frameworks that highlight the dynamics of human rights violations in the region. The social movement understudies how the IPOB group frames resentments to gather support which is formed around their Igbo identity. This movement thereby offsets a state repression by the government, thereby causing violence.

The conflict theory takes into account the struggle between the government and the marginalized IPOB group and views it as a power and autonomy tussle which has led to human rights violations in the region. The human rights theory points out that both the states and non-state actors have tremendously violated the fundamental human rights of individuals in the region through their actions and counter-actions.

Nigeria's inadequacy in managing stability and order in the region is made evident through the fragile state theory and this fragility offers a conducive breeding ground for more human rights violations in the south eastern region.

Finally, the state repression theory explains the government's strict response as a coercive effort to maintain control. The state's use of military force, arbitrary detention, and bans on protests exemplifies how governments resort to repression to suppress opposition, often leading to severe human rights abuses.

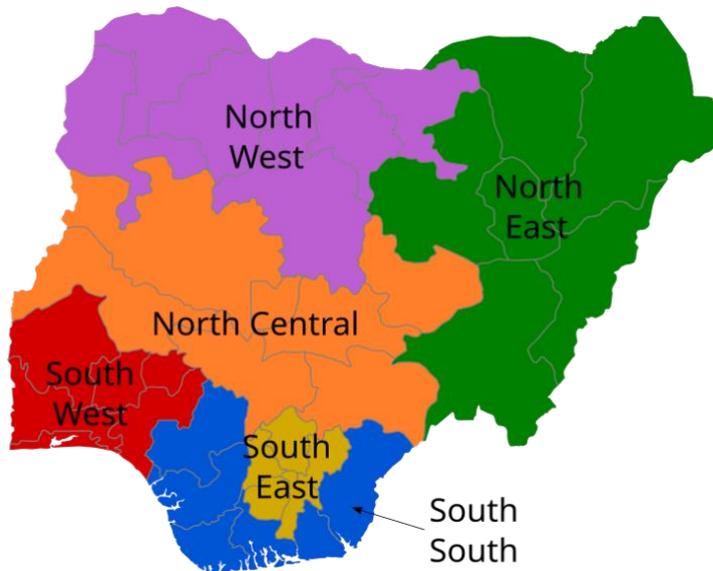
Together, these theories offer a comprehensive understanding of the human rights violations in Southeastern Nigeria, where governance weaknesses, power struggles, identity politics, and state repression interact to perpetuate instability and abuses.

3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 STUDY AREA

The study area comprises five states: Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu, and Imo with its capitals as Umuahia, Awka, Abakaliki, Enugu and Owerri respectively. The states consists of rural, urban and sub-urban regions with a rainforest climate marked by two; rainy and dry seasons and fertile soils that makes it suitable for agriculture. A notable landmark for the southeastern region is the Niger River (Nigeria's largest river) which serves as a border between the region and other regions. Other geographical points located in the region is the Nsukka Hills (located in Enugu State), Enugu coal mines (in Enugu state) and Oguta Lake (in Imo state), etc.

Figure 1. The Map of the Geopolitical Regions in Nigeria



Source: Wikipedia, 2020

These states are predominantly inhabited by the Igbo ethnic group, one of the largest and most influential in Nigeria. This region is of particular importance due to its rich history, cultural significance, and its current socio-political dynamics, particularly regarding the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) movement and government responses.

This study was conducted in the southeastern region of Nigeria and comprises of five (5) states namely; Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo State respectively. This region is populated by the Igbo ethnic group. Their major language is Igbo Language (native speakers) and English. The area is dominated by traders, farmers, civil servants and craftsmen/artisans who engage in several production as occupation.

Historically, the south eastern region was recorded to be the centre of the Nigeria civil war which occurred in 1967-1970 that led to the creation of the IPOB group that fights for the seclusion of the region from Nigeria.

3.2 SAMPLING PROCEDURE

Different sampling techniques were employed in selecting the respondents for the study.

1. Multi Stage: A multi-stage sampling technique was used to ensure that the five different states were represented using both the purposive and random sampling method.

- **Purposive Sampling:** This was used to ensure that various groups from the different states were represented in the survey. They included traders, civil servants, students, IPOB activists and government officials.

- **Random Sampling:** this was used to get respondents from the population the study area. It covered populations from the different parts (rural, urban and sub-urban) of the southeastern region. Different individuals from the different communities within the five (5) states were selected using this method as it ensures variation in socioeconomic groups.

- **Snowball Sampling:** This technique was used to further get referrals from already interviewed respondents about people who had more knowledge and/or experience on the human rights violation on by the IPOB and Government issues



3.3 SAMPLE SIZE

The entire population of the respondents were 250 individuals. This was totalled by conducting a survey (see appendix 1 below) of 50 persons from each of the five (5) different states in the south eastern region. This strategy aimed for a unique balance in number of respondents, their age differences, gender and their level of experience or knowledge on the conflict.

3.4 DATA COLLECTION

A primary data was collected using a semi-structured questionnaire (see appendix 1 below). The questions were structured to completely ensure that the objectives of the study were considered. The questions addressed key issues such as the individual experiences of human rights violations, their opinions on both the IPOB actions and government responses to the conflict. Open-ended questions were included to finally get their personal views and suggestions.

3.5 DATA ANALYSIS

The broad objective of the study is to analyse the profitability of organic manure use in the production of Nsukka yellow pepper by small holder farmers in Nsukka Local Government Area of Enugu State.

3.6 SAMPLING FRAME

The study was framed to cover areas prominent with the IPOB group and the government crisis and are most affected by the conflict. It covered towns, cities and rural communities that have a high presence of the conflict. This study was guided by the anonymity of the respondents owing to the study's sensitivity. Consents were sought from the respondents before the interview was conducted and a high level of confidentiality was maintained throughout the study as no personal details were divulged.

3.7 DATA ANALYSIS

The broad objective of the study is to analyze the impact of state (government) and non-state (IPOB movement) actors on human rights violations in southeastern Nigeria. Inferential and Descriptive tools were employed to study the socioeconomic characteristics of the respondents in the study area. Statistical tools like the frequencies, tables and percentages were used to analyze some of the responses by the respondents.

Pie charts and bar charts were used as data visualization techniques to represent the distributions and frequencies of the various human right violations and the contributing actors.

3.7.1 MODEL SPECIFICATION

A. LINEAR REGRESSION

$$Y_i = f(X_i, \beta) + e_i$$

Where;

Y_i = dependent variable

f = function

X_i = independent variables

B = unknown parameter

e_i = error terms

4.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE RESPONDENTS

This section describes the characteristics of the respondents in the study area. These characteristics include: gender, age, educational qualification, occupation, state of residence and place of residence.

CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS	OF	PERCENTAGES (%)
Gender		
Male		22.2%
Female		77.8%
Age		
Under 18		-
18-29		77.8%
30-39		16.6%
40-49		-
50 and above		5.6%
State of Residence		
Abia		20%
Anambra		20%
Ebonyi		20%
Enugu		20%
Imo		20%
Occupation		
Student		25%
Civil Servant		25%
Trader		6.3%
Self employed		37.4%
Unemployed		6.3%
Educational Qualification		
No formal education		-
Primary school certification		-
Secondary school certification		5.6%
Diploma/NCE		-
Bachelor's degree		83.3%
Master's Degree and above		11.1%
Place of Residence		
Rural		22.2%
Urban		61.1%
Sub Urban		16.7%

Table 1. Source: Field Survey, 2024.

A predominant number (77.80%) of the respondents were females while the male respondents are 22/20%. The respondents covered are majorly (77.8%) within the ages of 18-29years, which was followed closely by respondents (16.60%) within the ages of 30-39years and lastly,

respondents within 50 years and above made up the remaining 5.60%. Coincidentally, the age brackets (under 18 and 40-49 years) were not covered in the study.

Due to the sampling technique used, the respondents were evenly distributed, with a 20% allocation to each state. The predominant occupation of the respondents are the self-employed (37.4%) which are followed closely with a tie (25% each) for the students and civil servants populations. The population ended in another tie of 6.3% by the traders and unemployed population.

The education qualification indicates that all the sampled respondents are educated as 83.3% of them have acquired the Bachelor's degree, 11.3% have attained the "Master's degree and above" levels of education and finally, 5.6% of the respondents have attained the secondary school certification. Majority (61.1%) of the respondents are urban dwellers, 22.2% are rural dwellers and 16.7% are suburban dwellers.

4.2 Perception of Human Rights Violation

PERCEPTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS	PERCENTAGES (%)
Are you aware of the IPOB Movement?	
Yes	100%
No	-
If yes, what do you know about the IPOB movement?	
Peaceful protest movement	50%
Violent separatist group	27.6%
Originally peaceful, currently violent	5.6%
Combination of both peaceful and violent	5.6%
Not defined	5.6%
Not too certain	5.6%
In your opinion, how prevalent are human rights violations in South-eastern Nigeria?	
Very Prevalent	55.5%
Slightly Prevalent	27.8%
Not Prevalent	11.1%
Unsure	5.6%
Which group do you believe is most responsible for human rights violation in the region?	
Nigeria Government	58.8%
IPOB Group	-
Both Parties	35.3%
None of the parties	5.9%

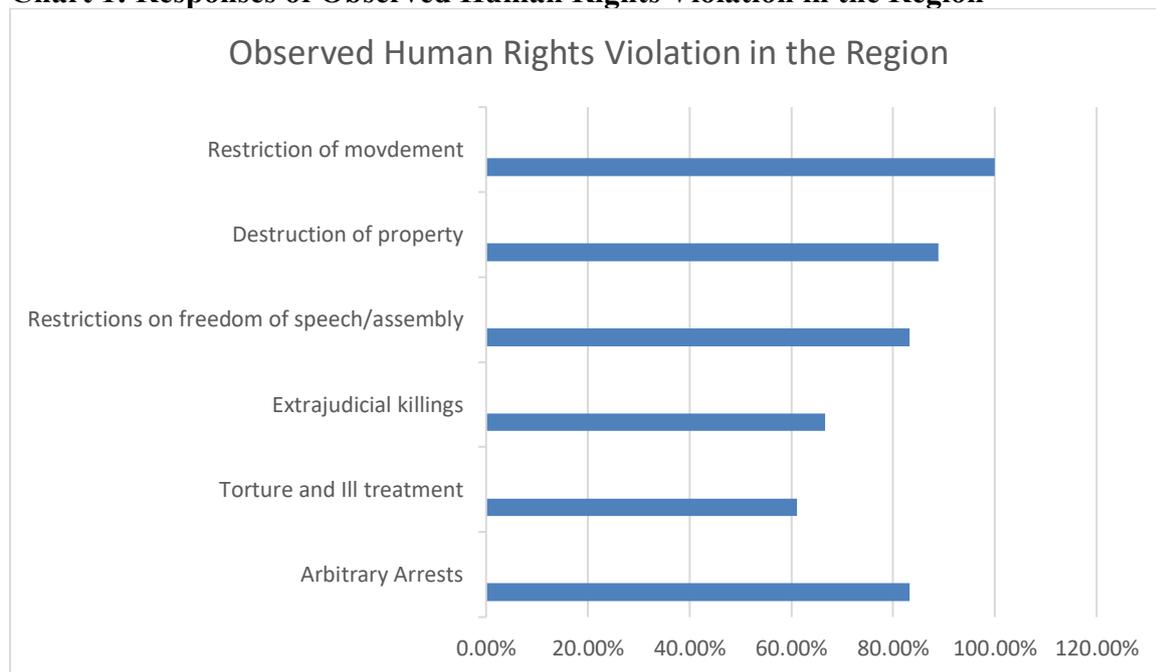
Table 2. Source: Field survey, 2024.

The entire respondents (100%) are aware of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) movement. This means that the IPOB movement and government conflict is evidently felt in the southeastern region. When asked what they know about the IPOB movement, 50% of the population responded that the IPOB group is a peaceful protest movement, 27.6% believed that it is a violent separatist group, 5.6% believe that the group was originally peaceful but currently violent, another 5.6% group believe that the IPOB group is a combination of peaceful and violent while the remaining population could not define and were uncertain of their knowledge about the IPOB group.

55.5% of the entire population revealed that the human rights violations is highly prevalent in the south eastern region while 27.8% of the respondents revealed that though violations are prevalent, they are just in slight occurrence. But, 11.1% noted that human rights violations are not prevalent in the region. Lastly, 5.6% are unsure of whether there is a prevalence in the region or not.

A large part of the respondents (58.8%) believe that the Nigerian Government are the most responsible for the human rights violation. While 35.3% believe that both the Nigerian Government and IPOB movements are responsible for the rights violation. While 5.9% of the remaining population stated that none of the parties are responsible for the violations.

Chart 1: Responses of Observed Human Rights Violation in the Region



Source: Field Survey, 2024

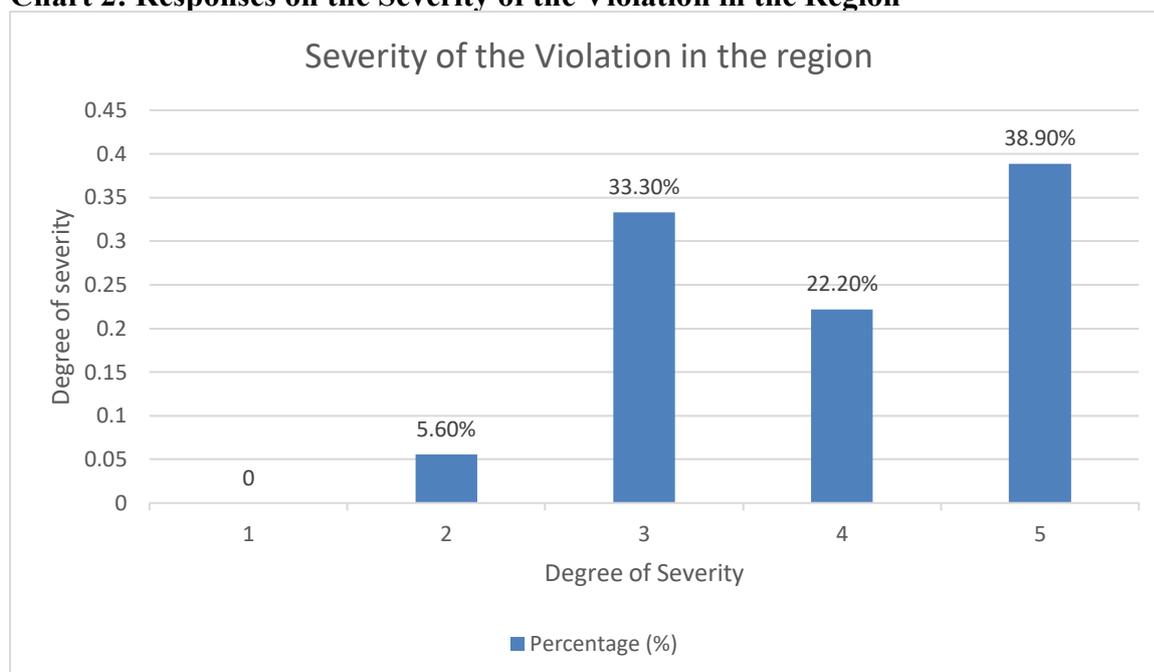
From the chart above, it showed the prominent human right violations in the region. The most prominent (100%) is the restriction of movement. As at the time of study, movements are usually restricted every Mondays in what was termed “Lockdown or Sit-at-Home”. On that day, movements are slightly limited to intrastate as there’s a blockade in every state border to prevent inter-state movement. This restrictions has been ongoing for more than two years (2022 as at the time of the study).

The next prominent (88.9%) is destruction of property as it indicates a high response from the individual respondents. Feedback from the respondents further revealed that individuals' properties are destroyed especially during the "lockdown or sit-at-home" periods and during an altercation between the IPOB group and the government.

The next violations are the restrictions on freedom of speech/assembly and arbitrary arrests with 83.3% responses. Reports from the field survey indicated that there's been records of the arrests of members of the IPOB especially as their leader, Nnamdi Kanu is still being held in custody (as at the time of the study). According to Stephanie and Nimi (2021) in a publication on CNN "Nnamdi Kanu was arrested on Sunday June 27th, 2021. He was initially arrested on 14th October, 2015 and was charged with terrorism, felony, coordinating an unlawful group, publication of defamatory issues and illegal possession of firearms, among others."

The least recorded violations are extrajudicial killings and torture and ill-treatments with 66.7% and 61.1% respectively. Although they are both the least observed responses from the study, they having a percentage slightly above 50% indicates that they are slightly prevalent in the region.

Chart 2: Responses on the Severity of the Violation in the Region



Source: Field Survey, 2024

A great number (38.90%) of the respondents perceive that the human rights violation in the region is extremely severe (rated 5) while a population of 33.30% perceive it to be mildly severe. Also to note that 22.20% believes it to be moderately severe. In all of the above ratings, it shows that there's a significant amount of severity of violations in the region.

4.3 Government Roles

SURVEY QUESTIONS	PERCENTAGES (%)
How effective have government actions been in addressing IPOB-related activities?	



Very Effective	-
Somewhat Effective	-
Unsure	33.3%
Not Effective	66.7%
Which government institutions have played the most significant role in handling the IPOB situation	
Nigerian Military (Army)	50%
Nigerian Police	16.7%
Department of State Service (DSS)	33.3%
Do you believe government responses to IPOB have led to a reduction or increase in human rights violation?	
Increase	66.7%
Reduction	-
None	11.1%
Unsure	22.2%
Have you or anyone you know been personally affected by government actions in response to IPOB activities?	
Yes	50%
No	33.3%
Maybe	-
Prefer not to say	16.7%

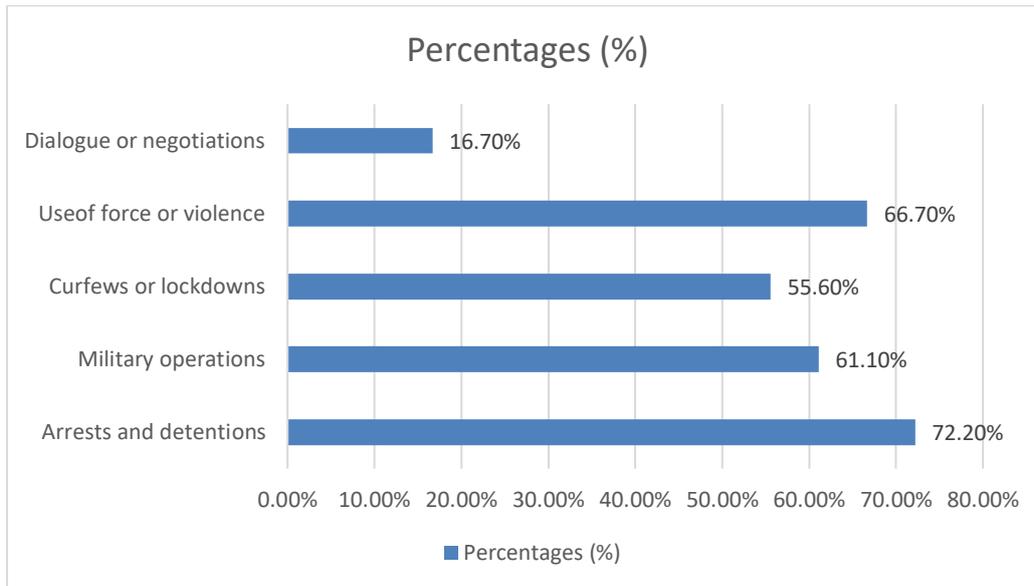
Table 3. Source: Field Survey, 2024

From the chart above, it was revealed that a major part of the respondents (66.7%) believe that the government actions in addressing the IPOB-related activities have not been effective while the rest of the population (33.3%) are unsure of whether they are effective or not.

The most notable government institutions that have played the most significant role in handling the IPOB situation in the region is the Nigerian Military (50%) which is followed closely by the Department of State Services (DSS) and the Nigerian Police Force comprising of 33.3% and 16.7% respectively.

Nigerian Government's response to the IPOB have increasingly affected the human rights violation in the region as revealed by 66.7% of the population. Equally, half (50%) of the sampled population admitted to have either experienced or known someone affected by the conflict.

Chart 3: Responses on the Measures taken by the Government against the IPOB Group

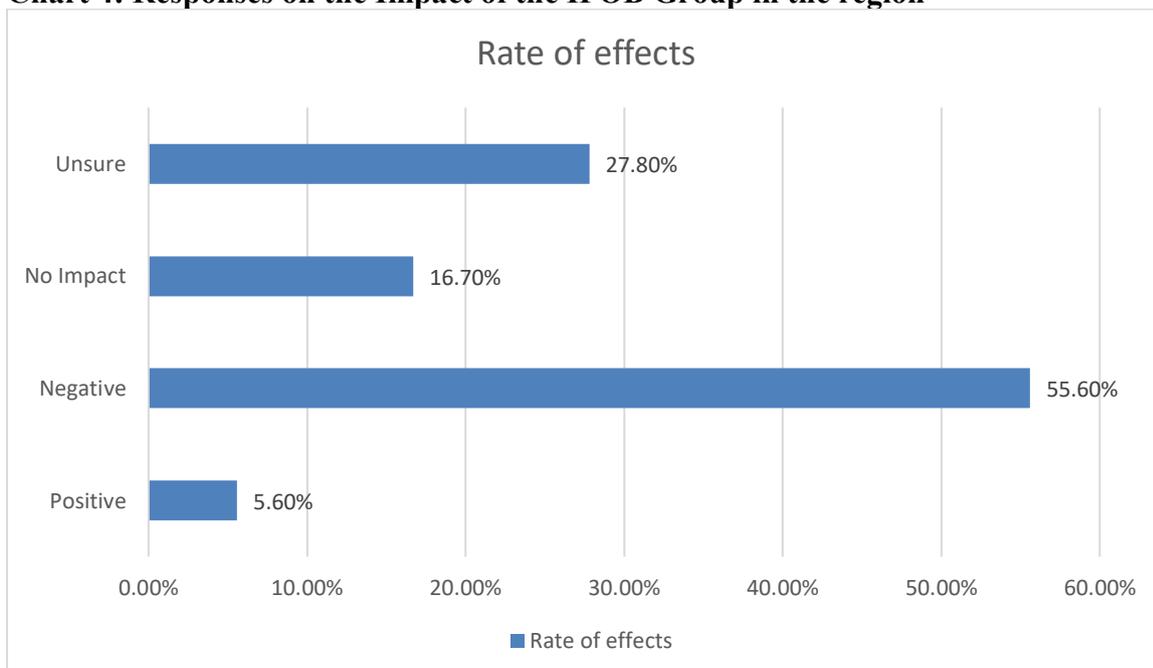


Source: Field survey, 2024

The study accounted for the common measures taken by the government against IPOB movement and its supporters. The three most prominent ones are Arrests and detention, Use of force or violence and military operations, taking up 72.2%, 66.7% and 61.1% respectively. This shows that the government uses brute force as opposed to a lesser non-violent conflict-resolution tactics like dialogue or negotiations which only accounted for 16.7%.

4.4 IPOB Group Roles

Chart 4: Responses on the Impact of the IPOB Group in the region



Source: Field Survey, 2024.



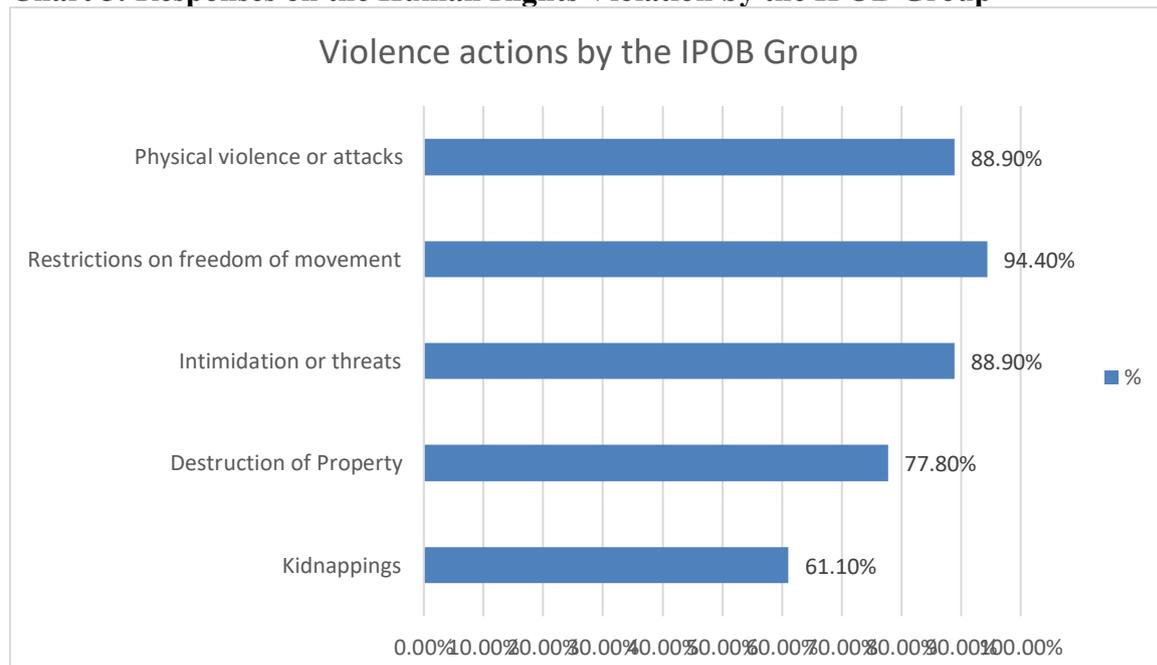
The effects of the IPOB group poses a highly (55.6%) negative impact on the security situation in the south-eastern region. Although 27.8% respondents are unsure of the impact of the group, 16.7% noted that it has no impact on the security situation while a minor 5.6% believe it to have a positive impact.

QUESTIONS	PERCENTAGES (%)
Do you believe IPOB’s activities have contributed to human rights violations in the region?	
Yes	72.2%
No	16.7%
Unsure	11.1%
Do you think IPOB’s activities are justified in response to the government’s treatment of South-eastern Nigeria?	
Strongly Justified	5.6%
Somewhat Justified	44.4%
Not Justified	27.8%
Unsure	22.2%

Table 4. Source: Field Survey, 2024.

From Table 4 above, the respondents agreed (72.2%) that the IPOB’s activities have contributed to human rights violation in the region as opposed by the 16.7% that disagreed. Also a larger population (44.4%) thinks that the activities of the IPOB are somewhat justified in response to the government’s treatment of the south-eastern region. Another population (27.8%) disagreed and stated that their actions and activities are not justified.

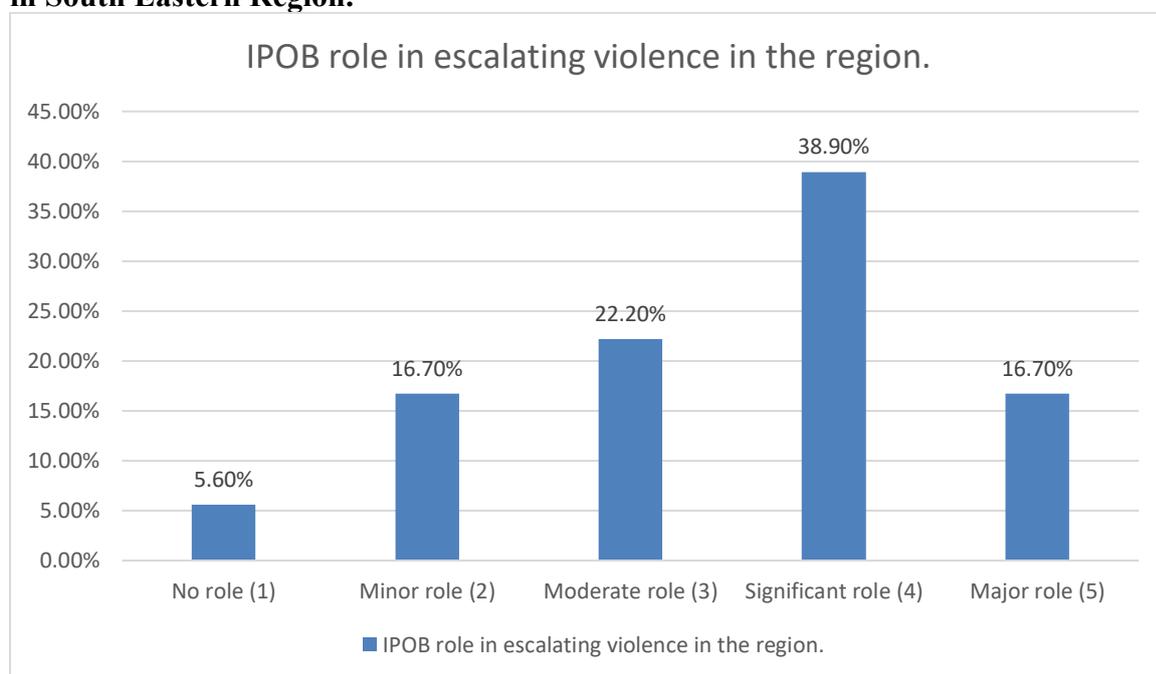
Chart 5: Responses on the Human Rights Violation by the IPOB Group



Source: Field Survey, 2024.

From table 5 above, some of the human rights violation actions perpetuated by the IPOB group were studied and the highly predominant ones were discovered. Coming up on the list with a 94.4% response is a restriction on freedom of movement by the group. This imposition of the Monday curfew has restricted a lot of movements, trades and activities, thereby infringing on the population’s right to free movement. Other top leading violation acts are the physical violence or attacks and intimidation or threats, with a recorded response of 88.9%. This reveals that civilians who do not support the IPOB group and/or go against its imposed orders are often threatened and most times violently attacked or through other means such as the destruction of property and kidnapping of an individual.

Chart 6: Responses on the Rate of the Role of the IPOB Group in Human Rights Violation in South Eastern Region.



Source: Field survey, 2024.

This survey revealed that majority of the respondents (38.90%) rated that the IPOB group play a significant role in escalating the human right violation in the region. But a less large population (22.2%) noted that the group play a moderate role in escalating violence in the region. This result invariably shows that a greater majority of the population admits that the IPOB group plays a role in human rights violation in the south-eastern region as just about 5.60% population believe that the group has no hand in the violation.

4.5 Recommendations

The conflict resolution between the IPOB group and the Nigerian government is possible as a majority (72.2%) of the entire population still believe in the possibility of peaceful resolution. And when there is a will, there will always be a way.

However, to resolve this conflict, the Nigerian government, in an effort to address these human rights violations in the south-eastern Nigeria, they should prioritize;



1. Economic development within the region to eliminate any perception of socioeconomic marginalization.
2. Dialogue with IPOB group and supporters
3. Provide human rights training for security forces
4. Strengthen the rule of law
5. Demilitarize the region and remove every imposed curfew and checkpoints in the region.

The IPOB group are not left out in ensuring an end to the human rights violation in the region by;

1. Lifting of the imposed curfew
2. Refrain from using arms and brute forces especially on the innocent civilians
3. Dialogue and cooperate with the government and any peace-making third party

APPENDIX 1

Topic:

The Impact of State and Non-State Actors on Human Rights Violations in Southeastern Nigeria: A Study of the Indigenous Peoples of Biafra (IPOB) Movement and Government Responses

Description:

This survey aims to gather insights on the impact of state and non-state actors, specifically the Nigerian government and the Indigenous Peoples of Biafra (IPOB) movement, on human rights violation in Southeastern Nigeria.

Your responses will help in understanding the situation and proposing potential solutions. All information provided will remain strictly confidential and will be used solely for academic research purposes.

We value your honesty and participation in this important study.

Section A: Socio-Economic Characteristics

1. Gender

- A. Male
- B. Female

2. State of Residence

- A. Abia
- B. Anambra
- C. Ebonyi
- D. Enugu
- E. Imo

3. Age

- A. Under 18
- B. 18-29
- C. 30-39
- D. 40-49
- E. 50 and above

4. Occupation

- A. Student
- B. Civil Servant
- C. Trader
- D. Self Employed
- E. Unemployed



5. Educational Qualification

- A. No formal education
- B. Primary School Certification
- C. Secondary School Certification
- D. Diploma/NCE
- E. Bachelor's Degree
- F. Master's Degree and above

6. Place of Residence

- A. Urban
- B. Rural
- C. Suburban

SECTION B: PERCEPTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION

1. Are you aware of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) movement?

- A. Yes
- B. No

2. If yes, what do you know about the IPOB movement?

- A. Peaceful Protest Group
- B. Violent Separatist Group
- C. Other

3. In your opinion, how prevalent are human rights violation in Southeastern Nigeria?

- A. Very Prevalent
- B. Slightly Prevalent
- C. Not Prevalent
- D. Unsure

4. Which group do you believe is most responsible for the human rights violation in the region?

- A. Nigerian Government
- B. IPOB Group
- C. Both Parties
- D. Non of the Parties

5. What type of human rights violation have you observed or heard about in your area (select all that apply)?

- A. Arbitrary arrests
- B. Torture and Ill treatment
- C. Extrajudicial Killings
- D. Restrictions on freedom of speech/assembly
- E. Destruction of property
- F. Restrictions on freedom of movements

6. On a scale of 1-5, how severe do you think the human rights violations in Southeastern region are?

- A. Not Severe
- B. Slightly severe
- C. Mildly severe
- D. Moderately severe
- E. Extremely Severe

SECTION C: GOVERNMENT ROLES IN HUMAN RIGHT VIOLATION

1. In your opinion, how effective have government actions been in addressing IPOB-related activities?

- A. Very Effective



- B. Somewhat effective
 - C. Unsure
 - D. Not effective
2. **Which government institutions have played the most significant role in handling the IPOB situation?**
- A. Nigerian Military
 - B. Nigerian Police Force
 - C. Department of state security (DSS)
 - D. Other
3. **What are the common government measures taken against IPOB or its supporters? (Select all that apply)**
- A. Arrests and Detention
 - B. Military Operations
 - C. Curfews or lockdown
 - D. Use of force or violence
 - E. Dialogue or negotiations
 - F. Other
4. **Do you believe government responses to IPOB have led to a reduction or increase in human rights violations?**
- A. Increase
 - B. Decrease
 - C. None
 - D. Not sure
5. **Have you or anyone you know been personally affected by government actions in response to IPOB activities?**
- A. Yes
 - B. No
 - C. Maybe
 - D. Prefer not to say

SECTION D: IPOB GROUP ROLE IN HUMAN RIGHT VIOLATION

1. **How would you rate IPOB's impact on the security situation in Southeastern Nigeria?**
- A. Positive
 - B. Negative
 - C. No impact
 - D. Unsure
2. **Do you believe IPOB's activities have contributed to human rights violations in the region?**
- A. Yes
 - B. No
 - C. Unsure
3. **What types of human rights violations have been attributed to IPOB and its supporters? (Select all that apply)**
- A. Kidnapping
 - B. Destruction of property
 - C. Intimidation or threats
 - D. Restrictions on freedom of movements
 - E. Physical violence or attacks
 - F. Others
4. **On a scale of 1–5, how would you rate IPOB's role in the escalation of violence in the region? (1 = No role at all, 5 = Major role)**



- A. 1
 - B. 2
 - C. 3
 - D. 4
 - E. 5
5. **Do you think IPOB's activities are justified in response to the government's treatment of Southeastern Nigeria?**
- A. Strongly Justified
 - B. Somewhat Justified
 - C. Not Justified
 - D. Unsure

SECTION 5: RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **What do you think should be the government's priority in addressing human rights violations in Southeastern Nigeria? (Select all that apply)**
 - A. Dialogue with IPOB
 - B. Strengthening the rule of law
 - C. Demilitarization of the region
 - D. Economic development
 - E. Human rights training for security forces
 - F. Other
2. **Do you believe a peaceful resolution between the government and IPOB is possible?**
 - A. Yes
 - B. No
 - C. Unsure
3. **In your opinion, what steps should IPOB take to reduce human rights violations in the region?**
4. **What other suggestions do you have to address the ongoing human rights violations in Southeastern Nigeria?**

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