

SECURITY ADVISORY

Inputs indicate increased demonstrations/protests against the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) in the country, including in Abuja and Lagos. While most protests have been peaceful, some have turned violent leading to blockage of roads and throughfares.

2. The Federal Government of Nigeria has been responsible and responsive to the protests. Their Fact Sheet is attached below. The High Commission of India accordingly advises Indian Nationals to remain vigilant and take necessary security precautions. All Indian Nationals are advised to:-

- (i) Follow updates on the prevailing security situation issued by the local government and police.
- (ii) Monitor local media for updates
- (iii) Avoid likely areas of demonstrations, such crowded areas on outskirts of city limits. Stay at central locations.
- (vi) Exercise due caution if unexpectedly caught in the vicinity of such demonstrations.
- (v) Be aware of your surroundings.

3. In addition, the High Commission of India advises all Indian Nationals to continue to adhere to all Covid-19 safety protocols as promulgated by the Federal Government.

4. A list of DO's and DON'T's is attached for ready reference.

5. In case of any emerging crisis or trouble, or if you have any information to share, please contact the Indian High Commission at Abuja or the Office of the High Commission in Lagos at the following co-ordinates:

High Commission of India, Abuja

- (a) Mr. Sreenivasan Nair Email- cons1.abuja@mea.gov.in
Mobile- +234-9070349989
- (b) Mr. NV Kadam Emergency No- +234-9070343860

Office of High Commission of India, Lagos

- (a) Mr Rachit Rawat Email- hoc.lagos@mea.gov.in
Mobile- +234-8128308751
- (b) Mr Ajay Kumar Sharma Email- sscons.lagos@mea.gov.in
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FACT SHEET

FG'S RESPONSE TO #ENDSARS MOVEMENT'S DEMANDS

DEMANDS OF #ENDSARS MOVEMENT:

1. Immediate release of all arrested protesters.
2. Justice for all deceased victims of police brutality and appropriate compensation for their families.
3. Setting up an independent body to oversee the investigation and prosecution of all reports of police misconduct within 10 days.
4. In line with the new Police Act, psychological evaluation and retraining (to be confirmed by an independent body) of all disbanded SARS officers before they can be redeployed.
5. Increase police salary so that they are adequately compensated for protecting the lives and property of citizens.

FG'S RESPONSE:

1. On 11th October, 2020, the IGP dissolved the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) across the 36 State Police Commands and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).
2. On Oct. 12, President Muhammadu Buhari addressed the nation, stating: "The disbanding of SARS is only the first step in our commitment to extensive police reforms in order to ensure that the primary duty of the police and other law enforcement agencies remains the protection of lives and livelihood of our people. We will also ensure that all those responsible for misconduct or wrongful acts are brought to justice.
3. On 13th Oct. 2020, the IGP ordered all defunct SARS personnel to report at the Force Headquarters, Abuja, for debriefing as well as psychological and medical examination. The officers are expected to undergo this process as a prelude to further training and reorientation before being redeployed into mainstream policing duties. The medical examination will be carried out by the new Police Counseling and Support Unit (PCSU).
4. On 13th Oct. 2020, the presidential panel on the reform of SARS accepted the five-point demand of the #EndSARS protesters.
5. On 15th Oct. 2020, the National Economic Council (NEC) directed the immediate establishment of State-based Judicial Panels of Inquiry across the country to receive and investigate complaints of police brutality or related extra-judicial killings, with a view to delivering justice for all victims of the dissolved SARS and other police units. The panel will include representatives of Youths, Students, Civil Society Organizations and would be chaired by a respected retired State High Court Judge. The panels have six months to complete its assignment.
6. Other decisions by NEC:
 - (a) State Governors and the FCT Minister should take charge of interface and contact with the protesters in their respective domains.
 - (b) State Governors should immediately establish State-based Special Security and Human Rights Committees to be chaired by the Governors in their States, and to supervise the newly-formed police tactical units and all other security agencies located in the States. This will ensure the protection of citizens' human rights. Members will also include Representatives of Youths and Civil Society, as well as the head of police tactical units in each of the States.
 - (c) Establishment, by the Special Committee on Security and Human Rights, of a Human Rights Public Complaints Team of between 2 to 3 persons to receive complaints on an ongoing basis. That team would be established by the Special Committee on Security and Human Rights.
 - (d) State Governors to immediately establish a Victims Fund to enable the payment of monetary compensation to deserving victims.

#PoliceReform

SECURITY INSTRUCTIONS -DO's AND DON'T's

DO's

- ♣ Keep your identity papers handy, to be shown to security personnel when asked.
- ♣ Keep telephone numbers and contact details of your friends, neighbours, local police station and Indian High Commission handy.
- ♣ Keep in regular touch with the local Indian Association to obtain updates the prevailing security situation. Follow news reports and be alert to developments.
- ♣ Stocks of essential items, ie food stuff, water, medicines and fuel should be kept, to enable sustenance in case the security situation deteriorates.
- ♣ Inform your co-workers, friends/relations about your movements so that in case there is a crisis then alert can be sounded.
- ♣ Do keep your passport valid for travel in emergencies.
- ♣ Telephone numbers of NOK and your Blood Group should be accessible.
- ♣ It is better to venture out if required in groups, rather than alone.
- ♣ Do try and use personal company vehicles instead of local taxis.
- ♣ If you're working or travelling in areas where there is a Boko Haram presence, especially in the North East of Nigeria, you should be aware of the threat of terrorist kidnap.
- ♣ Do follow your employer's security advice, make sure your accommodation is secure and review your security measures regularly.
- ♣ Be extra vigilant when visiting banks or ATMs.
- ♣ The local laws and practices should always be respected.

DON'T's

- ♣ Do not rely on unknown persons or strangers.
- ♣ In case of a crisis do not venture out and remain inside your house or campus till the situation has improved.
- ♣ Do not travel alone, especially at night.
- ♣ If unsure, then do not share your travel details with strangers. Avoid large crowds and public demonstrations as they can turn violent unexpectedly and at short notice.
- ♣ Avoid going to crowded local marketplaces.
- ♣ Avoid ostentatious display of wealth.
- ♣ Do not get into arguments with the locals, better to walk away from a developing dangerous situation.

India and Nigeria have age-old, long standing relations, including at people to people level. Tens of thousands of Indians are residing and doing business in Nigeria for several decades, many of them for generations. A similar number of Nigerians are in India for various purposes including education, tourism and business. Ordinary Nigerians are friendly, helpful and courteous towards foreigners. Accordingly, whilst taking due precautions to guard against isolated criminal incidents, a similar, reciprocal courtesy and friendliness towards Nigerians is advisable.