

## **End Special Anti-Robbery Squad (EndSARS) Protest and Its Consequences on Economic Activities of Nigeria Maritime Sector**

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### **Abstract**

*This research examined the incidents of the End Special Anti-Robbery Squad (EndSARS) protest and its consequences on the economic activities of Nigeria's maritime sector, with the interest to provide information on the courses and its consequences on economic Activities of Nigeria maritime sector. Through the application of frustration-aggression theory while carrying out the findings. From the phenomenological point of view, the study adopted a descriptive method in carrying out the findings. Therefore, a random sampling through the distribution of quantitative questionnaires to 130 respondents was done. In addition of use of secondary data such as relevant books, national and international journals, radio, television, newspapers, government publications, online sources, and personal experience was applied. After data analysis was done, the findings attested that the end special anti-robbery squad protest in Nigeria ended in violence. However, the study also discovered that at the beginning, it was peaceful, but ended up with violence and bloody.*

**Keywords:** *Aggression, endears, frustration, protest, and SARS.*

### **1. Introduction**

The origin of the Special Anti-robbery Squad (SARS) was traced to the year 1992 in Lagos State, as a result of the severe criminality of then and its environment, (Midenda,2017) corroborated this view. It was created as a department in the Nigeria Police Force, which performs undercover operations against armed robbers. Its existence now getting to two decades after its creation. After considering SARS's performances in the detection and prevention of crimes the top hierarchy of the Nigeria Police Force considered the need to spread the unit into other states of the federation, to send serious warnings against armed robbery and other criminalities. The current report of police brutality gained the attention of the general public and brought about the use of the movement tag " (Endears) on Twitter. Nigeria celebrities

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also expressed their experience with the unethical behaviors of the special anti-robbery squad in Nigeria which constituted to lack of trust by citizens in Nigeria Police. A petition was raised and signed by many Nigerians and submitted to the National Assembly, requesting for scraping a special anti-robbery squad unit from the police force. Traced back to on 2nd of December, 2017 was the starting point of the said Twitter campaign. Unconditional activities of a special anti-robbery squad become an issue of discussion online, no fewer than over 400,000 Tweets within twelve hours. Subsequently, the youths turned the online campaign to protest in October 2020. The medium was used as an avenue to explain terrible experiences with the Special Anti-robbery Squad (SARS), emphasizing further that the unit was established to fight against armed robberies in Nigeria. Therefore, the Endears movement revealed that, during the damages caused as a result of police brutality by some bad elements among Special Anti-Robbery Squad officials. Likewise, it exposed the level of decadence within the SARS, such as violation of their constitutional duties, also infringed upon the fundamental human Rights of the citizens as against the act that established the institution. The major identified problems include the sudden spread of the protest movements, the nature of the protests, and its consequences on the economic activities of Nigeria's maritime sector. The main objectives of this study include the investigation of the sudden spread of the protest, to investigate the nature of the protests, and to investigate its consequences on the economic activities of Nigeria's maritime sector. The question of what caused the sudden spread of the protest in the country was germane in the minds of researchers. What is the nature of the protests? And what is its consequences on the economic activities of Nigeria's maritime sector? While scope of the study centered on the consequences of endears protests on the economic activities of Nigeria's maritime sector, particularly in Lagos state. The research will significantly add to existing knowledge. Researchers considered many theories in explaining EndSARS protests, such as Conflict theory, grievances theory, and frustration-aggression theories. Scholars have started to re-examine the impact of grievances on protesters behaviors e.g. (Rüdig, 2013); (Bernburg, 2015), (Kern, 2015). In this research, researchers considered frustration-aggression theories that played an enormous role in explaining collective action as the germane theory for this study, while (Ugba,2022) also supported this view.

## **2. Literature Review**

Traced to history of Nigeria before and after independent in 1960 historically, it was revealed that the rulers (the Colonial master) and the Nigerians were able to witness many protests, this corroborated the views of (Utin, 2018), (Brigid, 2021) and (Vaskov, 2021) in their respective studies. Traced to the era of our great Nationalists,

their protests are intellectual based protests, without molestation, peacefully and focused on banishment of foreign rules and at the end they both achieved their target. Gradually, the protest gained momentum and brought about indigenous ruling in term of governance, (Eluwa, 1996), (Ubaku, 2014) were also in line with these views. Today, protest in Nigeria has taken a new dimension. Nigerians have witnessed a lot of protests from 1993 till date. Annulment of presidential election in 1993, where serious demonstration surfaced in protest against the Military Authority then, which headed by General Ibrahim Babangida and led to his step aside for the first time in the history of governance in Nigeria.

Police brutality that is looming the World has witness another approach, Adekoya, (2021) also supported this view. Scholars around the World have identified protest as major disruptive phenomena that hindered economic activities globally which includes Nigeria maritime sector, these are in line with the views of (Bleaney, 2002), (Maria, 2016), (Ochi, 2021), and (Oludamola, 2020) in their respective studies. The EndSARS movement began in 2017 when there was an agitation on several social media platforms, to absolutely stop police brutality and bad governance, this has been the view of various scholars on EndSARS protest in Nigeria, such as (Perpetua, 2022), (Temple, 2022), and (Ochi, 2021). This protest was an avenue to analyze the ugly experience of severe torment encountered from the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS). Such as gross abuse of fundamental human rights of citizens and extra-judicial killings by the police were escalated on Twitter and Instagram. A tweets goes viral, particularly on the 3rd of October, 2020 on the death of a young Nigerian who was killed by Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) officials and the deceased body was left on the road side and sparked a movement that started on social media. According to (Kabiru, 2020) revealed that this singular act was widely spread online on many social platforms that was metamorphosed into a live protest all over the streets of the country, particularly Ekiti, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Oyo, Osun, Abuja etc.

Moreso, the Constitution, (1999) as amended, against the police excesses, hence it has been clearly stipulated therein the primary functions of government which includes protection of lives and properties of the citizens. The protest was triggered as a result of the severe brutality and other excesses of special anti-robbery squad (SARS). The initial absenteeism of the rules of law, bad governance that brought about hardship on the land, incessant brutalities, couple with other inhuman activities of the SARS were also geared up the frustration and aggression that resulted to endears protest which hindered economic activities of Nigeria maritime sector, without considering negative effects of COVID-19 on socioeconomic development in Nigeria. The protesters therefore used the medium to express their accumulated grievances, among their demands from the government includes banishment of poverty, to end

bad governance and to end Sars etc. According to CNN, (2020), Lagos state witnessed a large number of protests and has been described as the epicenter of all protests. And it has been established that Lagos State is a one of the commercial hub in Africa, (Popoola, 2022) revealed while (Ifeoluwa, 2020) also in line with the view.

### **2.1.1 Brief History of Nationalist and Their Protests Against Colonial Rules in Nigeria**

The issue of protest has become a usual phenomenon in African countries, particularly Nigeria among others, this view is in line with the view of (Ubaku, 2014) and it cannot be properly treated without considering the previous protests that brought about Nigeria independent of 1960. The foremost and the earliest Nigerian Nationalists was Herbert Macaulay, an architect, journalist and politician. His contribution towards nationalism began in 1925 with the establishment of his newspaper called Lagos Daily News. Thus, he used this means to expose the European's corruption and their offending officials whom he took to the Privy Council. In his time, the Colonial master have instituted Clifford Constitution of 1922 which originated an elective principle of Macaulay, Nigeria National Democratic Party (NNDP) which became the dominant Party till 1938. He was also a founder and national president of National Council of Nigeria and Cameroon (NCNC) in 1944. His Nationalist movements made him embark on nationwide tour of Nigeria, where he canvas for support to send delegation to British to protest against Richard Constitution and died in the cause of National struggle while on tour of Kano.

While Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe also called "Zik", he was among leading nationalists that fought for country independent of 1960 as a Republican. He worked as an instructor at Lincoln while in abroad. In 1934, he took the position of editor in a daily newspaper named (African Morning Post), in Accra, Ghana, and later promoted pro-african nationalist agenda. In 1937 he also founded West African Pilot which served as driven vehicle to foster Nigeria nationalism. His vest experience in journalism was used to tackle allien rules. Zik later joined politics and co-founded the National Council of Nigeria and Cameroon (NCNC) with Herbert Macaulay in 1944 and become the secretary general of the party in 1946. He also elected to Legislative Council of Nigeria. Therefore, other nationalists like Chief Obafemi Awolowo, Sir Ahmadu Bello, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, Sir Ernest Ikoli etc. They both protested against the Colonial rules which later brought about Nigeria independent of 1960. These are in line with the views of (Iyanda, 2019).

### **2.1.2 Consequences of EndSARS Protest on Economic Activities of Nigeria Maritime Sector**

Researchers have established that protest has been a global phenomenon which associated with consequences, sometimes it may be positive, negative or both positive and negative consequences. Hence, this study revealed the following to be the consequences of EndSARS protest on economic activities of Nigeria maritime sector, particularly Lagos State.

1. The immediate scrubbing out special anti-robbery squad (SARS) from police formations with the reduction in police brutality has been identified as the only positive consequence of the EndSARS protest in Nigeria
2. During EndSARS protest of 2020 Lagos State, the Nigeria economic hub was left devastated as a result of hoodlums activities for several days, (Ifeoluwa, 2020) confirmed the view. The protest was dominated by thousands of youths without considering its consequences on economic activities of Nigeria maritime sector and Nigeria at large.
3. Investors started counting their loss from the first day of the protest and many business activities put on hold and considering financial lost worth billions of naira, LCCI, (2020), Fagbo, (2020), Oshinnake, (2020) and Nkasi, (2020) in their respective studies are in line with the views.
4. Government internal generated revenue from maritime sector, worth of millions of dollars lost during the protest can never be regain by both government and private activities.
5. Considering the collapsed of many investments to EndSARS protest, in the cause of this study, investigation revealed that many investors in maritime sector and other economic sector lost all their economic worth during EndSARS protest and till now some are unable to regained their lost and therefore aggravated poverty already on the land.
6. Lack of finance that makes many states incapacitated to provide social amenities, payment of workers' salaries and other basic necessities. Subsequently, fund that would have been used for those aforementioned problems will be used in nearest future to rebuild public assets destroyed by arsonists and miscreants during the protest.
7. Many businesses without insurance cover may never return to economy. Though some businesses will rely on their insurance companies to bounce back and not all small businesses were insured.

8. Financial Institutions that gave loan to affected investors were affected, because most of loans may require written off where businesses affected by the crisis do not bounce back.
9. This study revealed that EndSARS protest posed severe threat to national security, hence security agent counted many casualties to the protest, some people turned the corpse of security agent to roasted meat without considering the rate of insecurity that overwhelmed the country in the hands of terrorism, banditry, and political assassinations.
10. Finally, the issue of insecurity that led to national unrest may discourage prospective foreign investors in maritime sector and therefore lost confidence to establish in Nigeria and those existing one may relocate to neighboring countries because many supermarkets that belongs to foreigners were seriously affected, such as Spar, Shoprite etc.

## 2.2 Conceptual Review

**Aggression:** - Psychologically, the term "aggression" refer to as a range of behaviors that can result in both physical and psychological harm to yourself, others, or objects in the environment. Aggression centers on hurting another person either physically or mentally. Social psychology also describe it as any behavior or act which mainly aimed to harm a person, animal or damaging physical property, (Bethany, 2022). (Bushman, 2010) referred to aggression as a behavior that intended to harm another person who is motivated to avoid that harm, (Dewall, 2012) also supported the view. While (Johnnie, 2017) explained further that the definition by (Bushman, 2010) is a single definition supported by researchers.

**EndSARS:-** This is a hashtag or slogan used by Nigeria youths requesting for disbandment of special anti-robbery squad (SARS) as a result of violation of their constitutional duties and violation fundamental human rights of the citizens.

**Frustration:-** For can be referred to as aversive events that "generate aggressive inclinations only to the extent that they produce negative effects". (Berkowitz, 1952) also supported the view.

**Protest:-** This can be referred to as a way of reminding those in the aim of affairs of the nation about their inconsistencies and inhuman rules that affect the lives of marginalized groups, Ochi, (2021) also supported this view.

**SARS:-** Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), a department in Nigeria police force for the purpose of curbing armed robbery and other criminality in Nigeria.

### 2.3 Theoretical Review

This refers to a systematic conceptual guide or school of thought used by researchers as a foundation of work in expressing some levels of existing relevant knowledge. Therefore, this research adopted frustration-aggression theory revealed by (John Dollard, 1939) which was expanded by (Miller, 1941) to explain EndSARS protest in Nigeria. This theory explained that the reason for the display of aggression by protesters was feelings of being unable to get what they actually deserve. Moreover, when what protesters got was lower than their expectations, they resulted to protest. Factually, protesters' expectations from Nigeria Police Force was to discharge their duties in compliance with the constitution of the land, but acted contrary. The primary duty of police includes protection of life and property of citizens. The constitution also provides certain rights and freedom for citizens. Surprisingly, Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) department failed to discharge their duties constitutionally, and their excesses against innocent citizens remain the genesis of the protest which was tagged EndSARS. Therefore, a random sampling through distribution of quantitative questionnaires to 130 respondents was done. In addition, the use of secondary data such as relevant books, national and international journals, radio, television, newspapers, government publications, online sources, and personal experience was applied. Protest. Remarkably, contradiction from actual needs and expected need brought about protests, this is also in line with the view of (Faleti, 2015). This theory analyzing the issue between youths (protesters) and the police (SARS) in Nigeria. (Dollard, 1939) revealed that "the occurrence of aggressive behavior likely resulted to counter aggression". (Miller, 1941) in his first criticism explained aggression as only a consequence of frustration. In the part two of his criticism rephrased this theory that "frustration produces instigations to a number of different types of responses". He also explained further that "frustration could be additive or accumulative.

### 2.4 Empirical Review

Ochi . B. and (Mark K. C.,2021). Effects of EndSARS protest on Nigeria economy. Structural-functionalist theory and survey research was adopted while revealing information about the subject matter. These researchers conclude that EndSARS protest has left, but its consequences are much vast in Economy and recommend that government and other relevant authorities to call for workable police reform.

## 2.5 Gaps in Literature

This research will be add to existing related work in the field of Social Sciences, established that EndSARS protest started peacefully, but ended with violence. Therefore, identified as a bloody protest.

## 3. Methodology

These researchers used descriptive method and adopted frustration-aggression theory in their explanation. They concluded that the present situation of this country as a result of unavailability of enough fund (cash) that posed unrest to Nigerians, many that may likely be among respondents were busy on que searching for cash, only 130 respondents were reached out to. Therefore, random sampling through distribution of quantitative questionnaires to 130 respondents was done. In addition of uses of secondary data, such as relevant books, national and international journals, radio, television, newspapers, government publications, online sources, and personal experience was applied.

## 4. Data Presentation

This section presents information gathered from respondents, carefully analyzed and interpreted them for discussion. Assessment of respondents responses concerning awareness of interfaith dialogue and collection of data were made through uses of questionnaires. This section revealed information gathered, discuss the results of data available, analyze and interpreted them to answer research questions. Therefore, statistical analysis required for this study indicated below.

### 4.1 Table 1: Scale of Interpretation

Unit Weigh	Weight Inter	Mean Verbal Description
4	2.5 - 4.0	Strongly Agree
3	1.5 - 2.49	Agree
2	1.0 -1.49	Disagree
1	Below 1.0	Strongly Disagree

The scale of 1-4 that was shown above were to be use by respondents to rank each statement of fact. The combination of frequency table in percentage ranking of each statement in this section were employed in presentation and interpretation of data analysis.



The combined of frequency table and mean (average) ranking of each statement in this section were adopted in presentation and interpretation of data.. The likert scale used for questionnaire range from 1- 4 that is (strongly agree, agree, disagree and strongly disagree).

#### 4.2 Table 2: The nature of EndSARS Protest in Nigeria.

<b>Valid.</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Cum%</b>
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	58	44.62	44.62
<b>Agree</b>	38	29.23	73.85
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	14	10.77	84.62
<b>Disagree</b>	20	15.38	100
<b>Total.</b>	130	100	

The above table revealed that 73.85 of the respondents strongly agreed and confirmed that EndSARS protest was peaceful in nature at the beginning, but end up with violence and bloody. Therefore, it disrupted peace and added to national unrest that already on ground in Nigeria.

#### 4.3 Table 3 The Consequence of EndSARS protest on economic activities of Nigeria maritime sector.

<b>Valid</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Cum%</b>
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	90	69.23	69.23
<b>Agree.</b>	18	13.85	83.08
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	12	9.23	92.31
<b>Disagree.</b>	10	7.69	100
<b>Total.</b>	130	100	

Table 3 above revealed that 83.08% of respondents agreed and confirmed that EndSARS protest have negative Consequences on economic activities of Nigeria maritime sector. Therefore, a lot of Investors that lost their economic worth were still unable to return to economy.

## 5. Conclusion

After thorough investigation, researchers therefore concludes that endears protest is one among bloody protest, though it begins with peace, but it was not end with peace. Many researchers such as (Temple, 2022), and (Ochi, 2021) among others were also claimed that the protest begins peacefully, but ended with violence. Security officials such as the police, and civilians lost their lives in the protest, it also added to issue of insecurity already on ground. This study also concludes that many uninsured investors, individuals and corporates that lost all their economy worth to the protest were still battling to return to the Economy and till now, no hope of getting their lost, therefore aggravated poverty that already on the land.

### 5.1 Recommendations

This study recommends the following after thorough investigation that:

Protesters shall coordinate and comport themselves in a peaceful manner, select those who are to be the leaders of the protest and deliberate on agreed modules and protocols that every participant should follow. These leaders are to be shouldered the responsibility to coordinate the protesters and ensure they guide against intruders.

This research recommends that for any protest to be graded as peaceful protest, the protesters must ensure that they will not infringe upon the fundamental human rights of other citizens.

It is advisable that the aims and objectives of the protests are communicated to the constituted authority to enable them provide them with needed assistance, such as security agents. Example of this is just concluded protest by a political party that protested against the results of the presidential election released by Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

Protesters' leaders should ensure quick report of any noticed intruders if any to the appropriate quarters.

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