



NATIONAL HUMAN
RIGHTS COMMISSION

REPORT ON

NATIONWIDE POLICE AUDIT

2018

EDITED BY
TONY OJUKWU
OKAY BENEDICT AGU





NATIONAL HUMAN
RIGHTS COMMISSION

REPORT ON

NATIONWIDE POLICE AUDIT

2018

EDITED BY
TONY OJUKWU
OKAY BENEDICT AGU



TABLE OF CONTENT

Foreward	iii
Acknowledgment	v
Executive Summary	vi
Legal Framework	viii
Introduction	1
Areas of Focus and Scope of the Audit	3
South West Zone	6
Introduction	
Accessibility and transparency	
Conditions of Cells and Detainees	
Feeding and Health	
Gender Related issues	
Recommendation	
North West Zone	10
Introduction	
Community Orientation	
Physical condition of Police Stations	
Equal Treatment Of the Public Without Bias On Age, Gender, Ethnicity, Nationality, Minority Staus Or Sexual Orientation	
Transparency and Accountability	
Detention Conditions of Detainees	
Physical Condition of Detainees	
Best Practices	
Recommendations	
South South Zone	15
Introduction	
Accessibility and transparency	
Physical condition of Police Stations	
Condition of Cell and Detainees	
Community Relations	
Feeding and Health	
Gender Related issues	
Recommendations	

North Central Zone	19
Introduction	
Accessibility and transparency	
Condition of Cell and Detainees	
Feeding and Health	
Gender Related issues	
Recommendations	
South East	23
Introduction	
Accessibility and Community Orientation	
Physical condition of Cells	
Feeding and Health	
Gender Concerns and Equal Treatment	
Operational Transparency, Accountability Concerns	
Main Challenges	
Recommendation	

FOREWORD

The 2018 National Audit Report of Police Detention Centers produced by National Human Rights Commission is the second in the series of this important publication.

Why Should the National Human Rights Care About Detainees?
The National Human Rights Commission Act 1996 (as Amended), Section 6(d) of the Act, states that the Commission has the power to:

''Visit persons, police cells and other places of detention in order to ascertain the conditions thereof and make recommendations to the appropriate authorities''

Whatever the reason for their detention, people deprived of their liberty are by definition, vulnerable. They have been taken out of their normal environment and are no longer allowed to manage their own lives. How vulnerable, it depends on a number of factors, including their individual characteristics (sex, age, etc.), the general situation in which they are detained, the reason for their detention, the stage they are in in any judicial or administrative process and by whom they are being held. No matter the circumstances being held, while detention and arrest are permitted by law their use is allowed as a last resort, only if a person has committed the alleged offence and there is legal provision for detention. Guided by the mandate of the National Human Rights Commission, in particular to promotion, protection and enforcement of Human Rights to all citizens of Nigeria, the NHRC has acted to improve the conditions of detention and treatment of people deprived of their liberty. Prompted by deep concern about their situation, NHRC started visiting police detention centers as demanded by the mandate with the sole aim of improving the conditions of our police detention centers worldwide.

The NHRC detention-related activities have progressively evolved from a monitoring role to a broader range of activities that seek to help individuals deprived of their liberty in a variety of situations and places of pre-trial detention in police centers.

The welfare of individuals deprived of their liberty is the starting point for the NHRC's activities. We seek to ensure that they are in decent condition and receive humane and fair treatment in accordance with

applicable laws and standards.

In the course of this exercise, the Commission audited One Hundred and Seventy-Three (173) Police detention centers in Twenty-Five (25) States across 5 geo-political zones of Nigeria.

The intensive attacks by insurgents and volatile nature of the North Eastern part of the country made it difficult to audit the Police Formations in that zone, hence it is not captured in this report.

The NHRC approach to detention is founded on having direct access to people in the place of detention where they are held and fostering a constructive and well-informed dialogue with those in charge. Checklist were developed and templates prepared for monitors of the Commission as well as for members of the National Assembly for the exercise.

Every subsequent edition of the report is unique and objective in many ways in the sense that it seeks to address the challenges of the previous exercise and appropriate recommendations to Government and other relevant stakeholders in improving the system in ensuring best practice.

I am convinced that the publication amongst others will be a reference material for Government and all relevant stakeholders in measuring and evaluating the success recorded so far and what needed to be done in addressing the prevailing conditions in Police Detention Centers across the country with a view to making them meet International Human Rights Standards. Subsequently as a Commission, it is serving as the requisite material in ensuring that the rights of all citizens are protected nationwide.

Please I enjoin all to read this Report.

TONY OJUKWU Esq
Executive Secretary
National Human Rights Commission

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

National Human Rights Commission acknowledges the support and the role played by persons and institutions who contributed to the success of the 2018 National Police Audit (2nd Edition).

The support of the representatives of the various Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies that participated in the validation session is equally acknowledged.

We specially appreciate the Nigeria Police Force, Nigeria particularly the Inspector General of Police Alhaji Ibrahim Kpotun Idris for granting us un-hindered access to the prisons. Our appreciation also goes to all the staff of the Police Detention Centers visited for their warm reception and inspection of their records in ensuring that the exercise was carried out without any hitch. Nigeria Police Force has been the Commission's long-time partner in protecting the fundamental rights of pre-trial detention persons. Their cooperation is highly appreciated and most valued.

In addition, the Commission is highly grateful to members of the National Assembly staff, Abuja, who participated in the 2018 National Police Detention Audit Exercise. The Commission ensured that they were part of the exercise being duty bearers which gives us the hope that, they will facilitate ease of policies, measures and legal reforms in this area.

It is worth nothing that this audit exercise would not have been successful without the commitment of the Commission's staff both at the Zonal/States offices as well as the headquarters who worked tirelessness from the beginning of the exercise to the end of the report. The audit exercise was carried out in selected States of the six (6) geopolitical zones of the country in spite of various challenges. Their efforts are commended and appreciated.

Finally, our sincerely appreciation goes to all those in the Police Detention Centers who gave their cooperation by giving us the opportunity to grant physical interview with them. We hope very soon they will regain their Right to Freedom of Movement and Right to Personal Liberty. This National Police Audit Report covers 2018 specifically.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Nigeria Police Force (NPF), in the discharge of its legal and Constitutional responsibility routinely arrest suspects for various categories of offences. The NPF in most cases, keep suspects in detention for reasons ranging from that of carrying out investigations on the allegations to that of ongoing prosecutions. Regrettably, suspects are then kept in custody of the police in complete departure from constitutional provision of section 35 (4) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999. This section provides:

“Any person who is arrested or detained in accordance with subsection (1) © of this section shall be brought before a court of law within a reasonable time...”

What is more, there are concerns that police detention facilities fall short of internationally accepted standards regarding the treatment of detainees. Of particular concern include conditions of the cells, attitude of law enforcement officials towards suspects and members of the public alike.

The National Human Rights Commission, in light of the forgoing and in accordance with her mandate contained in the National Human Rights Commission Act 1995 as amended, carried out zonal audit of police detention facilities across the six geo political zones of the country. The goal of the audit, among other things, is to get on-the-spot assessment of the detention facilities in order to ascertain their conditions. Also, the audit exercise seeks to assess the conditions under which detainees are kept as well as the NPF's compliance with international standards on the treatment of detainees and extant laws in Nigeria.

The audit focuses on six areas, namely:

- Accessibility and transparency
- Condition of cells and detainee
- Community relations
- Gender issues
- Feeding and Health

The data and information collated will serve as an advocacy tool and a

basis for recommendations to relevant authorities on how to improve the physical conditions of police detention facilities, the living condition of detainees and steps to reduce the abuse of human rights of suspects in detention. This is line with section 6 (o) of the NHRC Act 1995 as amended which provide:

“... report on actions that should be taken by the Federal, State or Local Government to comply with the provisions of any relevant international human rights instruments”

The last part of this report contains general recommendations that address issues that have been identified.

The Commission hopes that the government and other key stakeholders will find these recommendations relevant in their efforts to improve conditions in police detention centers, address human rights violations and provide better working conditions for the men and women of the police force to enhance better performance in the discharge of their duties.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

In analyzing the findings of this audit and in making recommendations, the Commission relied on the following legal instruments:

- 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (As Amended)
- United Nations Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment (BPP)
- European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment or Punishment (CPT)
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC); European Code of Police Ethics (ECPE)
- Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture (IACPPT)
- Principles of Best Practices on the Protection of Persons Deprived of Liberty in the Americas (PBPA)
- Robben Island Guidelines (Guidelines and Measures for the Prohibition and Prevention of Torture, Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in Africa (RIG).
- United Nations Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT)
- United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Treatment of Prisoners (the Mandela Rules).

While Nigeria is party to and has ratified some of these international legal instruments, some of the instruments are from other regions that Nigeria share international best practices with. These instruments are therefore employed in this report to illustrate the international best practices which Nigeria should adopt as a member of the international community.

INTRODUCTION

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) was established in 1995 by virtue of the NHRC Establishment Act of 1995. The establishment was in response to the resolution of the United Nations (otherwise known as the Paris principles) which enjoined member nations to establish national institutions in their respective countries with the core mandate of protecting and promoting human rights.

Sections 5 and 6 of the NHRC Act 1995 (as amended) assigned enormous responsibilities and powers to the NHRC including the powers to visit and audit Prisons, Police Cells and other places of detention in order to ascertain the conditions in which detainees are kept and to generally assess compliance with human rights standards.

The exercise of the powers to visit and audit these places of detention is in recognition of the fact that persons who are in detention are vulnerable to human rights abuses and this violates national, regional and international human rights standards as contained in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the United Nations body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons Under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment, the Nelson Mandela Rules, etc.

Additionally, the lack of adequate legal framework for the declassification and decriminalization of petty offences in line the Principles on Decriminalization of Petty Offences adopted by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights as well as the Guidelines on Conditions of Arrest, Police Custody and Pre-trial Detention in Africa¹ leads to overcrowding of Places of Detention in Nigeria and this accelerates human rights violations of the detainees who are mostly kept in detention beyond the constitutional guaranteed period.²

¹ See <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5799fac04.html> accessed on 19/8/2019

² See section 35 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended)

Mindful of the above facts and her mandate of protecting and promoting human rights, the NHRC embarked on a national audit of Police Stations across the country in 2018 as one of the components of the audit exercise to detention centres usually carried out on an annual basis. Other visits to police cells have either been in direct response to complaints or upon media reports of human rights violation in detention centres.

The objectives for carrying out the 2018 audit of Police Stations in Nigeria include but not limited to improving the human rights situation in places of detention, holding law enforcement agencies accountable for acts constituting human rights violation, improve the welfare and operational facilities of Police Officers as well as making recommendations to enhance their performance and compliance with human rights standards and best practices.

It is worthy to note that NHRC conducted physical visits to all Police Stations covered in this Report to obtain first hand information.

AREAS OF FOCUS AND SCOPE OF THE AUDIT

The audit of the Police detention centers covered twenty-six states of the federation and the Federal Capital Territory. The visit covered five out of the six geo-political zones of the federation. The Commission was able to achieve these wider coverages due to the establishment of offices in all the thirty-six states of the Federation. Consequently, the monitoring officers in the state offices were deployed to the field for effective and efficient gathering of information in all areas of coverage. However, the security challenges in the North East of the Federation is a major challenge for non-deployment Monitors in the states of the region.

The States visited are as follows:

- a. South West: Lagos, Oyo, Ondo, ekiti and Osun states.
- b. South- South: AkwaIbom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Edo and Rivers State.
- c. North West: Kaduna, Kano, Kebbi and Zamfara States
- d. North Central: Benue, FCT, Niger, Nasarawa, Plateau and kogi states.
- e. South East: Abia Anambra, Enugu, Ebonyi and Imo States

A total number of 188 (one hundred and eighty eight) were audited across the five geo-political zones of the federation.

The table shows a representation of number of police stations visited in the states within the geo-political zones.

S/N	ZONES/ STAES	N0 OF POLICE STATION VISITED
A	SOUTH WEST	
1	Lagos	9
2	Oyo	2
3	Ondo	12
4	Ekiti	12
5	Osun	11
	TOTAL	46
B	SOUTH-SOUTH	
1	Akwa Ibom	9
2	Bayelsa	1
3	Cross River	8
4	Edo	3
5	Rivers	9
	TOTAL	30
C	NORTH WEST	
1	Kaduna	12
2	Kano	12
3	Kebbi	3
4	Zamfara	1
	TOTAL	28
D	NORTH CENTRAL	
1	Benue	9
2	FCT	12
3	Niger	12
4	Nasarawa	9
5	Plateau	13
6	Kogi	13
	TOTAL	56
E	SOUTH EAST	
1	Abia	1
2	Anambra	4
3	Enugu	8
4	Ebonyi	3
5	Imo	12
	TOTAL	28

The audit exercised focused on six major areas with the hope that reforms in these areas will have significant effect on other areas. The major areas of focus include:

- a. Accessibility and transparency
- b. Physical condition of Police Stations
- c. Condition of Cell and Detainees
- d. Community Relations
- e. Feeding and Health
- f. Gender Related issues

This report is grouped and analyzed according to geopolitical Zones. Each zone has a corresponding recommendations based on issues identified to be peculiar in each geopolitical zones.

SOUTH WEST ZONE

INTRODUCTION

The South West Zone comprises of six (6) states. These are Lagos, Oyo, Ogun, Ondo, Ekiti and Osun States. The Table below shows the Police Stations visited.

S/NO	STATE	POLICE STATION
1.	LAGOS	Area 'F' Police Command Isokoko Police Station Ogudu Police Station Alausa Police Station Ojodu Police Station Area H Police Command Alapere Police Station Pen Cinema Police Station Man Centre Police Station
2.	OYO	Iwo Road Police Force Division, Agodi
3.	ONDO	Area Command, Oba-Ile Akure. Oba-Ile Divisional Police Station. Housing Estate Outpost Oba-Ile. Fanibi Outpost. Okuta – Elerinla Div. Police Station. Fanibi Div. Police Station. Area Command Akure. 'B' Division, Oke-Aro, Akure. 'A' Division, Oke-Eda, Akure. Oda Division Police Station. Ijapo Division, Police station. State CID, Headquarters.
4.	EKITI	Iworoko Divisional Police Headquarters Ido Divisional Police Headquarters Otun Divisional Police Headquarters Iye Divisional Police Headquarters Ilawe Divisional Police Headquarters Igede Divisional Police Headquarters Aramoko Divisional Police Headquarters Ijero Divisional Police Headquarters Ekamefa Divisional Police Headquarters Ikole Divisional Police Headquarters Ilupeju Divisional Police Headquarters Oye Divisional Police Headquarters
5.	OSUN	Ota Efun Division Police Station. Oja Oba Divisional Police Station. Dada Divisional Police Station. Ata Oja Divisional Police Station. Ipetumodu Divisional Police Station. Ikerun Divisional Police Station. Ikire Divisional Police Station. Ede Police Station. Ile Ife Police Station. Oshogbo Police Station. Ota Efun Police Station.

Accessibility and Transparency:

- All stations visited for audit at Lagos State were easily accessible and had sign posts for easy identification. The Station have complaint boxes and the names, phone numbers and ranks of officers were publicly displayed.
- The Station visited at Iwo Road Police Force at Agodi, Ibadan Oyo State was strategically located by the road side, thus making it accessible to the public, particularly the sign board which is quite conspicuous.
- The Stations visited at Ondo State were not well secured due to lack of perimeter fencing.
- Iworoko Divisional Police Station situated at Ado-Ifaki road at Ekiti State, had a conspicuous sign post and the station can easily be accessed.

Conditions of Cells and Detainees:

- Iwo Road Police Force at Agodi, Ibadan Oyo State is a modern station housed in a large expanse of land adequately fenced with a gate, the station was neat, well ventilated and orderly with Nigeria's flag and that of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) hoisted, accordingly. The physical structure was excellent and divided into departments.
- Iworoko Police Station in Ekiti was small in size, dilapidated, and no toilet provision.
- Stations in Ondo State need overhauling, for example Fanibi Division. and outpost, Oda Division are both in a state of disrepair, dilapidated and inhabitable.

Feeding and Health:

- At the Iwo Road Police Force, Agodi Ibadan, the suspects relations make provision for feeding, while same is augmented by the CSP for suspects who do not get attention from relations.

He ensures the safety of any food item before the food is given to any suspect. The station has a well equip first aid box.

Gender Related Issues:

- The Iwo Road Police Force, Agodi Ibadan station was a gender unit which is designated for handling gender issues; namely violence against men. The station also has a unit for handling complaints that concerns women and children.
- At Iworoko Station at Ekiti State had no toilet for male and female detainees, which could have been helpful in the promotion of gender related practices in the station.

Recommendations:

- I. There should be training and re-training of officers on human rights, especially the police human rights desk officers. Training should be on investigation, arrest and detention. Workshops and seminars should be conducted for effective and efficient delivery of their assigned duties.
- II. Availability of basic and necessary facilities for person with disabilities.
- III. Mainstream Disability Rights in Policing.
- IV. Proper identification and profiling should be conducted for detainees.
- V. CCTV Camera should be installed in all the stations for surveillance of all movements in and outside of the stations.
- VI. Provision of more operational vehicles and refurbishing of faulty ones for rapid respond to distress calls.
- VII. Modern furniture and ICT Communication gadget must be provided to improve the police service delivery.

VIII. Standard building should be constructed while existing building should be renovated to accommodate both personnel and detainee.

IX. New police cells should be constructed with modern toilet facilities to improve the health condition and sanitation of the detainee.

NORTH WEST ZONE

INTRODUCTION

The Four (4) States audited within the North West Zone are the following: Kaduna, Kano, Kebbi and Zamfara States. The table below represents the police station audited across the above-mentioned States.

S/N	STATE	POLICE STATIONS
1	KADUNA	Gabasawa Divisional Police Headquarters. Kabala Doki Divisional Police Headquarters. UnguwanRimi Divisional Police Headquarters. Malali Divisional Police Headquarters SabonTesda Divisional Police Headquarters. Kakuri Divisional Police Headquarters.Barnawa Divisional Police Headquarters. Tudunwada Divisional Police Headquarters. UnguwanSunusi Divisional Police Headquarters. KurminMashi Divisional Police Headquarters. Rigachinkun Divisional Police Headquarters and Kawo Divisional Police Headquarters.
2	KANO	Badawa Division. Area Command Metropolitan. Fagge Division. Criminal Investigation Department. Command School Special Anti-Robbery Squad. Nasarawa Division, Bompai Division, Dakata Division, Kofan Wambai Division. Anti-Kidnapping Unit. Jakara Division and Shahvici-SOR Unit.
3	KEBBI	Kalgo Division. Central Market Division and Brinin Kebbi Division.
4	ZAMFARA	Zamfara State police Command Headquarters.

The audit of the above listed police stations were under the following observation areas:

- a. Community Orientation,
- b. Physical Conditions of cells,
- c. Equal Treatment of the public without bias based on age, gender, ethnicity, Nationality, minority status or sexual orientation
- d. Transparency and Accountability
- e. Detention Conditions of detainees and
- f. Physical Condition of detainees

A. Community Orientation

Most of the police stations visited in Kaduna State were easily accessible by the public as the police sign and flag is conspicuously positioned. The stations visited in Kano State were not easily accessible to the public and had no links for ease of transportation. In Zamfara State, the orientation is entirely different at the Zamfara State Police Command. The facility is located at the centre of the town because it is the State Headquarters. Furthermore, as a policy, members of the public are not allowed to go in and report incidences of crime across the counter. They can only report through a petition or where cases are reported or transferred from the Division or Area Command. Also in Zamfara, The C.I department responsible for investigating crime or prosecution has no facility for lawyers or a suspect's family member to seat with detainees in comfort or privacy. No specially trained officers to attend to the public or civil society members at the CIA department which is headed by a Deputy Commissioner of Police. The architecture of all the stations visited at the North West did not provide for basic facilities to address the needs of the vulnerable groups. For example there is no ramp for the old, cripple etc. It was noted, however, that all the stations have adequate space and facilities dedicated the public arriving to report crime or make other reports. Most of the stations had between one to three operational vehicles and still operate analogue record keeping with obsolete office equipments. However, the stations lack man power and equipment to adequately police the areas.

B. Physical Conditions Of Detention Facilities

Across the stations visited in the North West, most of the cells were reported to be classified for male and female detainees. In stations where there were no detention facilities for female detainees, they keep them and the minors behind the counter. They were also reported to be neat and most of them empty as at the time of auditing. At the Zamfara State Police Command headquarters, the cells are a very big hall constructed like a store for keeping materials; it has a small window but no toilet inside. Plastic paint buckets were kept inside for detainees to urinate inside. When a detainee wants to defecate, he will be taken outside the cell to use the only functional toilet in the station. This is very inhuman.

Some of the structures are old, dilapidated and in need of renovations. The offices have roofs that leak water with very old furniture where available. Most of the furniture were reported to be personal and provided by officers for personal use. The offices need furniture like, table, computer, biro, papers, fridge, Air conditions, Carpets and total renovation of the building urgently.

Some of the stations had an interrogation room but there were no provisions for victims or witness protection. While identifying a suspect, witnesses are exposed to the suspect.

C. Equal Treatment of the Public Without Bias on Age, Gender, Ethnicity, Nationality, Minority Status or Sexual Orientation

There were no changing rooms for female detainees. However, it was observed that the facilities such as ramps and other special needs for persons living with disabilities were not available. Also, there was no medical facility or personnel, sick or injured are taken to nearby general Hospitals for treatment.

D. Transparency and Accountability

The team that audited the Police stations across the North West Zone observed that the stations did not have information on the prevalence on crime, charts, maps, or newsletters contrary to best practices and international standards. On the other hand, information on performance of the police in the area of jurisdiction was unavailable. Information describing how to make complaint against police officers for misconduct, complaint box and contact details of police ombudsman was not readily accessible. The public had no access to any information relating to the crime/criminals arrested except for a high profile case which the commands may brief the public on. However, citizens could write a formal complaint against a serving officer addressed to the Commissioner of Policemen on any misconduct.

The police officers were easily identifiable as they were dressed in uniforms and their name tags were conspicuously sewn onto their shirts.

E. Detention Conditions of Detainees

In most of the Police stations visited in the North West, It was observed that the security condition of the detention area was adequate. Some of the detention facilities, do not keep their detainees in the cell because of the cells were not well built as was the case at Shahvi-SOR, Police Unit, Kano State They take them to other police stations for safe keeping. Detainees use their personal phones, that of the IPO's or good spirited officers to communicate to their families or loved ones. Detainees whose families have information that they are in detention bring food for them. Family members provide food for detainees, but those that don't have are meagerly assisted by the police. There were no facilities made for physical identification of suspects by victims behind a glass or wall.

F. Physical Condition of Detainees

The detainees seen in the cell during the audit exercise looked healthy and had no sign of torture across the zones during the audit exercise. In an interview with them, they disclosed they were not tortured but complained that they had not had proper meal since as the police do not provide proper meal for the detainees.

G. Best Practices

According to police officers and detainees, some of the best practices recorded across the zones are that follows the Commands and Divisions within 48 hours of receipt of court orders, carry out the directive for the release comply with of suspects in prison or at the police station pending conclusion of investigation on offences bordering on felony.. While in simple and misdemeanor offence they are granted administrative bail by the police.

H. Recommendations

1. It is important to establish conflict mediation/resolution desk and human rights desk as part of the community policing and rights protection in all the police stations in the North West.
2. The need for adequate funding to the police for effective policing.
3. Provision of adequate operational vehicles n all the police stations for easy patrolling and response to emergency calls

4. There is need for additional manpower to meet up with the international best practice of policing.
5. The dilapidated police stations to be renovated.
6. Obsolete furniture should be changed and record keepings at the stations should be upgraded to digital system of record keepings.
7. There is need for provision of change rooms and toilets for the women.
8. There is need for provision of adequate furniture for the police officers.
9. Adequate source of water should be made available in all police stations
10. There is need for building of concrete cells as some of the divisions take their suspect to other detention facilities for safe keeping due to substandard nature of their cells.

SOUTH SOUTH POLICE DETENTION FACILITIES AUDIT REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The South South geo-political zone is comprised of six (6) states namely; Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo and Rivers.

Audit of police detention facilities in the zone were carried out in some select police Commands, Divisions and Stations in the affected states. The table below shows the police stations that were visited/audited.

S/NO	STATE	POLICE STATION
1	AKWA IBOM	State Command, Ikot Ekpene Division, Uyo Area Command, 'A' Division, Shelter Afrique Police Division, Uruan Police Division, CID, 'D' Division-Itam, 'C'Division-Uyo, SARS.
2	BAYELSA	State Command, Yenogoa.
3	CROSS RIVER	Atakpa Division, Mbukpa Police Station, Akim Police Station, State CID, State Housing Police Station, Federal Housing Police Station, Airport Police Station, 'B' Division-Parliamentary Extension.
4	EDO	Police Headquarters, Otubu Police Station, Ogida Police Station.
5	RIVERS	Rumueprikom Police Station, Mini-Okoro Police Station, Oyigbo Police Station, Okporo Police Station, Igwuruta Division, Elele Division, Isiokpo Division, Trans Amadi Division, Ozuoba Division.

Accessibility and Transparency:

All the stations audited are easily accessible. It was observed that officers were busy attending to members of the public. Interestingly, members of the public were seen moving in and out and freely interacting with officers and men at the stations.

Most of the officers at the stations were observed wearing uniform with proper name tags while a few others were seen in mufti. Inquiries revealed that those in mufti were detectives attached to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and the nature of their work makes it imperative for them to dress in mufti.

Contact information such as telephone numbers, education and enlightenment posters of the police was observed displayed at the reception area of most of the stations for the benefit of members of the public to call and report the commission of crime to the police.

Physical Condition of the Police Stations:

The buildings and surrounding environment of most of the stations audited were observed to be reasonably neat and in good shape. Some of the buildings wore paints that indicate they were recently renovated.

In almost all the stations audited, the offices were observed to be small and congested in comparison to the number of its occupants. It was observed that apart from the Admin sections, other offices in the stations audited were not equipped with computers. This indicated that the stations still rely mostly on manual methods to carry out their duties.

There were communication/signal rooms in some of the stations, especially at the Command Headquarters, and some officers were seen carrying communication gadgets like the walkie-talkie. Nevertheless, finding revealed that the available communication gadgets were not sufficient or adequate for the effective policing of the state capital. It was also discovered that though there were operation vehicles available for patrol purposes at these stations, they were however inadequate for the effective patrol and policing of their respective jurisdictions considering the growing population in the affected states.

Apart from inadequacy of logistical vehicles, most of the furniture in the stations audited was observed to be in state of disrepair, old and requiring replacement.

Condition of Cells and Detainees:

There were separate wing/cells for male and female detainees and detainees were seen in both wings of the detention facilities in varying numbers and depending on the station visited. However, there were more male detainees than there were female. The cells in most of the stations audited have water cistern toilets, functional water supply system and are well ventilated. There were observed to have already been clean/washed before the arrival of the audit team. The authorities in charge of the stations said the cleaning of the cells was a daily routine. Most of the cells were not congested at the time of audit.

Except of very few of them, most of the detainees were observed to be

in good physical conditions and there were no sign of torture observed. Detainees that were interviewed said they were arrested and detained the previous day. Nevertheless, some armed robbery/kidnapping suspects were observed to have been under detention for up to a week. It was however revealed by the detaining authorities that their prolonged detention was backed by a court order to enable the police conclude investigation on their alleged crime.

Community Relations:

The station is accessible to the public as could be seen with the free movement to members of the public in and out of it. There was a signage directing members of the public to the stations. The reception areas of the stations which are provided for visitors and other members of the public arriving to report a crime or to make other request were manned by both male and female officers. Many visitors were seen at the reception areas at the time of audit. There were posters capturing information on how to report crime and also police telephone numbers displayed around the reception areas of almost all the stations for the benefit of the visiting public.

Feeding and Health:

Detainees are fed three (3) times daily by the police authorities. Nevertheless, some of the detainees were seen eating food provided by self or their relatives. Inquiries revealed that some detainees resort to bringing in food from outside because that provided by the police does not meet their taste and satisfaction.

Gender Related Issues

Sensitivity to gender issues was observed at the stations starting from the reception areas where both male/female officers are put in charge of manning and attending to visitors.

The detention cells for male and female detainees were also separated and only female officers were put in charge of looking after and guarding the female wing/detainees.

The Divisional Police Officers in many of the stations audited were female officers.

Recommendations:

1. Adequate policing kits with modern day Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as bullet prove vest, jungle boot binocular lenses should be provided for police personnel.
2. Increase in the number of patrol vans for every police formation.
3. Enhancement of manpower/capacity building through training of officers and men of the Nigeria Police Force.
4. Upgrade and replacement of existing/damaged furniture across all police formations.
5. Welfare of officers such as Transfer Allowance should be paid promptly.
6. Provision of accommodation for police personnel through building of more police barracks.
7. Establishment of more police post/station to address the growing population in the country.

NORTH-CENTRAL POLICE STATION AUDIT REPORT

INTRODUCTION

North Central Nigeria consists of the seven states situated geographically in the middle belt region of the country, spanning from the west around the confluence of the River Benue and the River Niger.

States that make up the North Central Zone are; Benue, Kogi, Plateau, Kwara, Nasarawa, Niger and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja (FCT)

The Police stations audited in the North Central Zone were in Benue, FCT, Niger, Nasarawa, Kogi and Plateau States. The Table below shows Police Stations visited in the various states of the Geographical Zone.

S/NO	STATE	POLICE STATION
1.	BENUE STATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Modern Market Police Station Makurdi. ii. Terwase Agbadu, Gboko Road Makurdi. iii. Police Area Command Makurdi. iv. SCIID Makurdi. v. A Division Police Station, Wadata. vi. B Division Police Station, vii. D Division Police Station, viii. E Division Police Station, ix. IGP Special X Squad Makurdi.
2.	FCT (AMO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Kugbo Police Station. ii. Nyaya Police Division. iii. Karu Police Division. iv. Kpeigi Police Station.J v. Jikwoy Police Station. vi. Mararaba (B) Division Police Station. vii. Karu Market Out Post Station. viii. Masaka Police Station. ix. Karshi Police Station. x. Kurudu Police Outpost. xi. Nyanya Police Station. xii. Azhata Police Outpost Station.

3.	NIGER STATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Kontagora Police Station B division. ii. Central Divisional Police Station A Division, Minna. iii. GRA Police Station, Minna. iv. B - Divisional Police Station, Paiko Road. Minna. v. CID Niger State Police Command, Minna. vi. Chanchaga Police Station Minna. vii. Tudun Wada Police Station. viii. Bosso Estate Police Station, Minna. ix. Maikunkele Police Minna. x. Maitunmbi Police Minna. xi. Kpakungu Police Minna. xii. Moris Police Minna.
4.	NASSARAWA STATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. IGP X- Squard, Lafia. ii. A Division Police Station. iii. B Division Police Station. iv. C Division Police Station. v. D Division Police Station. vi. E Division Police Station. vii. Area Command Jos Road. viii. State Criminal Investigation Dept. Makurdi Road. ix.
5.	PLATEAU STATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. A Command Jos. ii. A Division Police Station. iii. Area Command Bukuru. iv. Area Command Vom. v. Area Command Jos Metro. vi. Anguwan Rogo Police Station. vii. Anglo Jos Police Station viii. B Division Bukuru. ix. C Division Jos. x. K VOM Police Station. xi. Katako Police Station. xii. P Vom Police Station. xiii. Nasarawa Gwom Police Station.
6.	KOGI STATE	Criminal Investigation Dept. HQ Lokoja.

Accessibility and Transparency

New Nyanya Police Station is located at the keffi express way and under karu Local Government Area. It is easily accessible by the public and has a large space.

The police station at Lokoja is strategically located by the road side thus making it easily accessible to the public and the sign board is particularly visible.

Kontagora police station 'B' Division Niger state, is strategically located along the federal low cost at kontagora town, it is well sign posted and very accessible to the public. It is also well fenced and the structure is divided into different units and departments.

It is important to note that the 'B' Division Bukuru, Jos South LGA, Plateau State appeared responsive to the needs of different population groups. This perception was based on the fact that the location of the station is accessible to different groups even in the event of a crisis. Also, the composition of the Police Officers stationed there is such that community members need not fear bias on religious or ethnic grounds.

Conditions of Cells and Detainees

The New Nyanya Police Station had only one cell, although very big and spacious, well ventilated but not so neat and lacked disinfectant. There was no provision for females and juvenile. Where the female detainees were brought in as suspects, they were kept at the counter. As at the time of the audit, there were twenty eight(28) suspects in the cell. The cell was obviously over populated. But detainees looked healthy.

The Headquarters of the Nigerian Police Force, Kogi State Command, Lokoja was neat, and orderly. The physical structure was good albeit an old structure. The station lacks modern office equipment.

The kontagora police station “B” Division had it cells of about 5 square meters categorized into female and male cells.

At Terwase Agbadu Police Post Makurdi there was only a cell which housed all detainees. The facility was built by some Philanthropists. When it rains, the corridor of the office accumulates water as the roof of the facility was leaking. Cells were neat and properly ventilated

It was observed that Terwase Agbadu Police Station Makurdi, had a cell for all detainees. The male detainees occupy the cell while the females were kept behind the counter at the reception area of the station. As at the time of the audit, it was also observed that the station had only one female staff, which is inadequate.

Feeding and Health

All the police stations do not provide for food for the detainees.

Commissions' auditors were informed that suspects' relations usually make provision for feeding. Most of the police stations do not have functioning first aid kits

Gender Related Issues

The public is treated equally without bias on account of sex, age, gender or social status.

The Lokoja station has a unit for handling complaints that concerns women and children, the facility in this regard is adequate. This unit handles cases of rape, child abuse and cases of children in conflict with the law. There was an inner room with a comfortable set up, where victims of alleged rape are kept to receive counselling.

Recommendations

- Provision of modern office equipment;
- Establishment of human rights desk across the stations;
- Conducting of Human Rights Based Training for officers manning the human rights desk;
- Consider disability rights in designing and constructing/ erecting police stations.
- Some stations visited were understaffed, eg Terwase Agbodu at Makurdi. More staff especially female Officers should be deployed to such locations.
- There is need for the expansion of some police station.
- Police stations should have medical personnel or clinic and there should be first aid boxes in all stations.
- Legal consultation by the detainees should be encouraged and the detainees should be able to talk with their lawyers in a secured place not within the hearing of officers but within the sight of officers.
- Police stations should have a standard clean toilet and bathroom facilities for the detainees.
- The need for the cells to be categorized into male and female.
- Police stations should have enough female personnel to cater for female detainees.

AUDIT OF SOUTH EAST POLICE CELLS

INTRODUCTION

The South Eastern Part of Nigeria has five states namely Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu and Imo States. This report therefore covers Police Formations visited in these states during the nationwide Audit of Police Cells

1.	Abia	Central Police Station, Umuahia, Abia State
2.	ANAMBRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Area Command, (X Squad) ➤ B Division ➤ Central Police Station, Awka. ➤ State CID, Awka.
3.	ENUGU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT (C.I.D) ENUGU. ➤ CENTRAL POLICE STATION ENUGU: ➤ OGUI ROAD POLICE STATION ➤ UWANI POLICE STATION, UWANI ENUGU. ➤ NEW HAVEN POLICE STATION ENUGU. ➤ ANTI-KIDNAPPING SQUAD ENUGU. ➤ ABAKALIKI ROAD POLICE STATION, ENUGU. ➤ AREA COMMAND HEADQUARTERS ENUGU.
4.	EBONYI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ State Police Command Headquarters ➤ Special Anti Robbery Squad , Abakaliki , Ebonyi State ➤ Central Police Station, Abakaliki
5.	IMO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Umuguma Divisional Headquarters (Owerri West) ➤ Agballa Divisional Headquarters (Owerri North) ➤ Iho Divisional Headquarters (Ikeduru) ➤ Orié Mbieri Divisional Headquarters (Mbaitoli) ➤ Divisional Headquarters (Aboh Mbaise) ➤ Oru Ahiara Divisional Headquarters on (Ahiazu Mbaise) ➤ Umuaka Divisional Headquarters (Njaba) ➤ Orlu Divisional Headquarters (Orlu) ➤ Orlu Area Command (Orlu) ➤ Nkwere Divisional Headquarters (Nkwere) ➤ Ehime Mbano Divisional Headquarters (Ehime Mbano) ➤ Isiala Mbano Divisional Headquarters (Isiala Mbano)

Accessibility / Community Orientation

The Police Stations visited were all located in accessible locations and identifiable with sign post as well as open to the general public. Monitors reported availability of adequate space dedicated to members of the public who wish to report crimes or make other enquiries but the facilities which will aid in reporting and investigating crimes seemed inadequate. For instance, apart from the Police Counter/Information Desk at the entrance of various Police Stations visited, there were no information brochures, posters, videos or other facilities that would assist or sensitize the public in reporting crimes or making enquiries. There were also no special facilities for reporting crime anonymously. People were, as a routine, expected to report crimes across the Counter which had staff assigned to attend to members of the public.

Physical Condition of Cells

There were mixed feedback pertaining to condition of the cells of various Prison Formations visited in the South East. In Anambra State, the cells in B Division Police Station was reported to be dilapidated as well as the Central Police Station Awka.

However, the Cells of Central Police Station **Umuahia, Abia State** were relatively clean and well ventilated. In Ebonyi State, both the State Command and SARS share the same premises. While the cells of **the Ebonyi State Police Command** were fairly decent with ventilation, the contrary was the case with the Cells in **SARS** section which may be described as a make-shift facility which is not befitting and therefore in dire need of relocation.

There were three cells in **Central Police Station, Enugu**; two for males and one for female detainees. The cells are spacious, neat with toilet completely detached from the cells. The toilets have water cistern with overhead tanks connected to supply water. A functional ground well was dug in the compound with a pumping machine. However, in **Enugu State Police Command**, all the male the cells at the Criminal Investigation Department were in deplorable condition with dilapidated buildings and facilities as well as poor sanitation. The convenience stinks with nauseating odour which turns off visitors. Monitors also observed what appears to be an outbreak of eye infection (conjunctivitis) in cell 02. The attention of the DCP was drawn to this observation.

Similarly, the detention facilities of **Uwani Police Station, Uwani Enugu** was reported to be strictly below the minimum standards. The cells (three) are narrow, in bad shape, poorly illuminated, without ventilation and with unbearable stench oozing from the cells ; which was a reflection of the deplorable sanitary condition of the cells.

The surroundings had overgrown weed and grasses of various kinds. The buildings wore the same old looks with the exception of the DPO's office block which was recently repainted.

Feeding/Health

There were no records of provision of food for detainees by the Police. There was however report that food was brought for detainees by their relatives sometimes in all the Police Detention Facilities visited in the South East. Many detainees therefore looked malnourished.

Some Police Formations were however reported to have raised concerns that the N300.00 approved by government for feeding a detainee on a daily basis is grossly inadequate.

Health care for detainees seemed poor. Some complained of sickness without adequate attention. Some who had wounds complained of shabby treatment.

Gender Concerns/Equal Treatment

The stations lack basic facilities for groups that may require special protection and attention such as crime victims and witnesses who require privacy. Monitors observed a make-shift arrangement where officers could vacate their office for such purposes when it becomes necessary.

In most formations visited, a room was designated as statement/interview room for different types of suspects/complainants, irrespective of their special protection/privacy needs.

There was no evidence of special provision for Persons with Disability. Female detainees were however kept separately in most facilities visited, normally manned by female police officers.

Although there were no female suspects at the time of visit, it was

observed that in **Central Police Station Umuahia**, there are *no separate facilities designated for dealing with female suspects such as changing rooms, bathrooms or toilets*. The female cell is located inside the general cell and they share the same toilet and bathroom facilities with male detainees.

Condition of Detainees

The following were the condition in many of the facilities visited:

- Poor ventilation.
- Poor illumination.
- Lack of Water.
- Poor sanitary/toilet facilities.

There were however few exceptions such as Anti-Kidnapping Squad Abakaliki Road, Enugu which looked clean and ventilated with water supply .

The detainees did not have name tags on their clothing or identification numbers and they were kept together irrespective of the offences for which they are charged and most of them had been detained beyond the constitutional period of 48 hours without taking them to court.

It was observed that many of the detainees looked healthy while some had injuries and marks suggesting torture . Interview conducted with some of the detainees revealed that they had been beaten and injured during the course of arrest or interrogation.

Operational Transparency Accountability Concerns

Most of the police officers, including the DPO were properly kitted up in their uniforms with their names and force number displayed. However, there were no identification parade rooms for witnesses or victims to identify suspects without been seen or private police interrogation rooms with video links or one-way mirror in all the Police Stations visited.

The List containing the number of people in detention, the date of

detention and offences for which they were being detained was only given to the monitors upon demand. It is doubtful if this List would be readily made available to the general public.

Main Challenges

- Inadequate office accommodation for staff.
- Inadequate staff to cope with manpower need
- Inability to meet the needs of detainees owing to poor funding
- feeding of suspects remains a big challenge as the current rate of N300.00 per meal is grossly inadequate.
- Lack of adequate transport facilities.
- Congestion in some cells
- Delay in Charging detainees to court causing prolonged detention
- Delay in investigation of allegations
- Children seen in custody
- No facilities for Persons with Disability

Recommendations

- more cells should be built to create more space for detainees so as to aid in the decongestion of cells .
- Establishment of more Remand Home to deal with Children in Conflict with the law .
- Renovation of dilapidated structure in Police Formations in the South East is also recommended as well as provision of more office furniture, equipment and vehicles for the effective management and administration of the Police Stations.
- Police Officials should endeavor to take suspects to court within the constitutional prescribed period of 24 or 48 hours as the case maybe as to avoid lengthy pre-trial detention period.
- Police authorities should make data readily available within the locality of operation of a police station as to ascertain the patterns of crimes within the locality; or the measures taken by the Police station to address the crimes.
- Police stations should be provided with facilities to make them accessible to persons living with disability.



ISBN-13 978-978-58203-4-8