

TEXTUAL ANALYSIS OF TWITTER COMMENTS ON BOLANLE RAHEEM'S KILLING BY A NIGERIAN POLICEMAN

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Abstract

The Nigeria Police Force has been variously accused of highhandedness, brutality, extrajudicial killing and sundry human rights violations against the very citizens they are constitutionally empowered to protect and this has always made Nigerians to respond angrily to these acts of human rights abuses. This study analyzed Twitter (currently known as X) comments on Bolanle Raheem's killing by a Nigerian policeman. The study adopted the Interest Theory to analyze the comments of the citizens and used the context theory to explain their reactions to the extrajudicial killing of the female lawyer. Data were generated through a qualitative literature review, while a purposive sampling technique was employed to select Twitter comments and 12 tweets were harvested for the study. Findings show that the myriads of twitter comments by Nigerians on the brutal killing of the female lawyer by an officer of the Nigeria Police Force portrayed Nigerians' misgivings regarding the total disrespect to the rights of Nigerians including right to life and the horrifying character of personnel of the Force. Further findings indicate that Nigerians' twitter comments on Bolanle Raheem's killing seriously dented the image of the Force in the estimation of the citizens. On the strength of these findings, the study concluded that the inappropriate and unconstitutional behaviours, brutality and extrajudicial killing of Bolanle Raheem by the personnel of the Force has led to mutual suspicion and a strained relationship between the citizens and the Force. The study thus recommended, inter alia, that government should do everything necessary to carry out serious recruitment reforms with particular emphasis on training and retraining so that it will not only sanitize the Force on its professionalism but also purge it of bad eggs.

Keywords: Bolanle, Extrajudicial Killings, Human Rights, Nigeria Police Force, Twitter

Introduction

The Nigeria Police Force is constitutionally empowered to ensure the maintenance of internal security and to protect the lives and properties of the citizens. As Okocha, Attah & Ola-Akuma (2022) rightly observe, the quest for citizenship administration and civil polity informed the creation of state-

controlled police in Ancient Greece in the fifth century BC. In Nigeria, Sections 214 to 216 of the 1999 Constitution provides for the country's Police Force. Section 214 of the 1999 Constitution (As amended) specifically states that, "There shall be a Police Force for Nigeria, which shall be known as the Nigeria

Police Force, and subject to the provisions of this section, no other police force shall be established for the Federation or any part thereof (p. 12) According to Egbetokun (2023), Nigeria's current police strength is just over 370, 000 officers with a ratio of one police officer to 600 citizens. The regulation of the Force is provided for in the Police Act. Section 4 of the Act provides that, "The Police shall be employed for the prevention and detection of crime, the apprehension of offenders, the preservation of law and order, the protection of life and property and the due enforcement of all laws and regulations with which they are directly charged (p.15). The demand for the protection of life and property placed on the police is of outmost concern in this discourse. Expressing their view on the performance of the constitutional obligations of the Police Force to the citizens, John (2017) states that the actions of the police in Nigeria contradicts the objective of its establishment. According Okocha et al (2022, p.236):

Officials of security forces have been alleged to habitually engage in activities that undermine their integrity; activities like the arbitrary arrest of citizens and extortion, extrajudicial killings, excessive use of force, degrading treatment to suspects in custody or even using their official status or power to mete out punishment on enemies in personal disputes.

Incidents of brutality and extrajudicial killing by personnel of the Nigeria Police Force have not only become rampant but are rising by the day. Akinyetun and Adedini (2022) observe that the police in Nigeria have been accused of human rights violations, torture, brutality,

Police Brutality and Extrajudicial killings of Nigerians

Cases of excessive use of force, brutality and unlawful killings of Nigerians

and unlawful killings of varying proportions in the conduct of their constitutional duties and responsibilities. A particular case in point is the killing of Bolanle Raheem, on Sunday 25th December, 2022 by Drambi Vandi, a policeman attached to the Ajah Police Station, Lagos. Busari (2022) reports that the woman was shot in a car in the presence of her family when they were returning from church while trying to make a U-turn under the Ajah Bridge, an incident he refers to as "unfortunate and avoidable" (p. 14). Although, the policeman who shot and killed Bolanle Raheem was arrested, tried, convicted of murder and has been sentenced to death by hanging, Nigerians reacted angrily to the death of the female lawyer who, Abdulhamid (2022) notes, was seven months pregnant.

This study analyses reactions and comments of Nigerians on social media via Twitter (currently known as X) to the brutal killing of the woman.

Research Objectives

The broad objective of this study was to textually analyze twitter comments on Bolanle Raheem's killing by a Nigerian Policeman but more specifically, the study sought to:

1. Ascertain Nigerians' Twitter comments on Bolanle Raheem's killing by the Nigerian policeman.
2. Evaluate the lilt of Twitter comments by Nigerians on Bolanle Raheem's killing by the Nigerian policeman.
3. Find out how the Nigerian Police's image was affected by Twitter comments on the killing of Bolanle Raheem by a Nigerian policeman.

by the same police personnel that took an oath to protect them has become a daily

occurrence. This must have informed Akinyetun and Adedini's (2022, p. 43) assertion that "in Nigeria there is a high tendency for people of low socioeconomic status to experience police brutality, or even become victims of extra-judicial killing." In their opinion, Edo and Sagay (2012) hold that the spate of extrajudicial killings in Nigeria has not only questioned the effectiveness and efficiency required by the police in carrying out their duties, but it has also greatly undermined human security. They therefore argue that the brutal nature of the Nigerian police stands in sharp contrast to the roles expressly expected of them in their relations and interactions with the citizenry.

The Nigerian dailies are replete with debilitating news of such extrajudicial killings in one part of the country or the other by an institution expected to prevent such atrocities in the first place. For instance, the *Punch* of 29th December, 2022 Chronicles 10 incidents of police shootings that caused the death of victims in 2022, *ThisDay* reports that the October 2020 'EndSARS' protests were largely caused by police brutality and senseless killings. In the same vein, the *NewTelegraphy* accounts indicate that many innocent Nigerians have lost their lives to the guns of cruel policemen who have snuffed lives out of young and adult citizens out of desperations to either extort them or out of carelessness. Similarly, the *Independent* newspaper of 21, April 2020, reports that for the third time during the lockdown, an Abia citizen was killed extra-judicially by security operatives. More significantly, Sulaimon (2022) chronicles at least ten victims of senseless police killings in 2022 alone. These include, but are not limited to, Gafaru Buraimoh whose death on December 7, 2022 was linked to a stray bullet shot by a police inspector attached to the Ajah police station in Lagos, the duo of Odinnaka and Obieche, two businessmen were killed on April 24, 2022, by a drunk cop at a friend's birthday

party in a hotel bar at the Gowon Estate in Lagos State. In a very bizarre story, Sulaimon (2022) reports that on January 22, 2022, Durowaiye was killed by a cop in Kogi State because he (Durowaiye) drank the cop's N20 sachet water. In another incident, Obhafuoso was killed by a cop on August 13, 2022 during the burial of his master's late mother in Esan North Local Government Area of Edo State. Equally perplexing, is the death of Oliver Ezra Barawani who was killed by a policeman on June 4, 2022, at a checkpoint in Kpanti Napo near Jalingo. According to Akinyetun and Olufunmilayo (2022), extrajudicial killings by the murderous personnel of the Nigerian Police Force in the conduct of their constitutional duties and responsibilities have become prevalent in recent times. The force has been accused of human rights violations, torture, brutality, and unlawful killings of varying proportions. Unfortunately, this palpable, yet injurious trend has become a strain on the maintenance of effective security in the country. Quoting a leading non-governmental organisation, Center for Victims of Extra-Judicial Killings and Fortune (CVEKT), Edo and Sagay (2012) maintain that Nigeria has recorded a total of 7, 198 extra judicial killings by the police in just four years (2008-2011), and that in doing this, the police had always relied on order 237 of Nigerian Police Force (NPF) to perpetrate the distasteful act of extra-judicial murder.

Citing the Centre for Democracy and Development, a pro-democracy group, Ejekwonyilo (2021) reports that within a period of 10 years, from 2011 to 2021, security operatives have killed over 13, 000 extra- judicially in the country. The report noted that "unlawful killings have become a common place in the country since 1999, with many of these killings perpetrated by security forces" (p.20). In fact, quoting Global Rights Advocates for Sustainable Justice, Agunloye (2023) asserts that

between January and September 2021 alone, 164 cases of police-civilian incidents were recorded. Similarly, records from Amnesty International show that 271 incidents of police brutality against civilians were recorded between March and June of 2021 (Agunloye, 2023). A joint report to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) by Prisoners' Rehabilitation and Welfare Action (PRAWA) and Network on Police Reform in Nigeria (NOPRIN) reveal that the prevalence of extra judicial killings in recent times has taken an upward swing while torture and wide spread disregard for human rights in the police force has been a subject of major concern in Nigeria (PRAWA, 2013). According to the report, the Nigerian Police Force is responsible for hundreds of extrajudicial executions, other unlawful killings and enforced disappearances each year. Providing a historical background to police brutality in Nigeria, Jauhari (2011) maintains that violations of human rights and extra judicial killings is a deep rooted trajectory from the colonial era when the British colonial masters, in an effort to consolidate and expand their power, grossly violated the rights of Nigerians.

Public Perception and Confidence in Nigerian Police Force

By the Act establishing the Nigeria Police Force, their main responsibility, as Olusegun (2014) notes, is to bring order out of chaos and to enforce laws and regulations whether accepted or unaccepted by the people. To Okocha et al., (2022), in an ideal nation, security forces are set up to ensure the maintenance of internal security and to protect the state from external aggression amongst other responsibilities. This explains Odunaike, Lalude & Odusanya's (2021) position that the police force is vital to the domestic security of a country. To them, the yardstick to gauge how orderly and secure a society is, has the professionalism and effectiveness of the police force as a very

Whenever and wherever these barbaric killings or manhandling of Nigerian civilians has happened, citizens have continued to react angrily and clamour for law enforcement reforms as well as serious reorientation of the police personnel to their constitutional responsibilities. Looking at the rate at which these killings are happening in Nigeria and the reasons for such, which oftentimes are just minor misunderstandings and arguments that ensue between the policemen and the civilian victims, Agunloye (2023) concludes that those uniform men are insane with mental health. Okocha et al., (2022) lament that the relationship between Nigerian Security Forces and the civilian population has been characterized by conflicts, debates, accusations and counter-accusations. This, to them is an anathema because in sane climes, the presence of officers of security forces in a community or neighbourhood should give citizens a sense of safety but the reverse is the case in Nigeria where several pieces of evidence from mainstream media and social media portray officers of security forces manhandling or brutalizing citizens, even when there is no cause or justification for such actions.

pertinent factor. However, in Nigeria, in the pursuit of their obligations, some of the over zealous and unscrupulous police personnel oftentimes over react and engage in unethical behaviours such as brutality, degrading or inhuman treatment of innocent Nigerians, extortion, verbal insults and in extreme cases, threats to, or actual extermination of the citizens. Indeed, Odunaike et al., (2021) observe that with the worsening policing in Nigeria, extra-judicial killings seem to be on a rising curve.

In his comparative analysis of police brutality in the United States of America and Nigeria, Oludayo (2022) observed that the spate of incidents regarding excessive use of

force by law enforcement agents, especially the police, in both countries against unarmed citizens has elicited protests across the countries. He further notes that the ensuing outrage about police brutality has not only brought to national and international attention the unprofessional practices of the force but it has also demonstrated that human rights violations by law enforcement agents are not an exclusive experience of developing nation.

In their view, Oluwafemi, Oderinde and Adedire (2023, p. 84) state that the Nigerian Police represents all that is wrong, unpleasant, illegal, extortionate, and ineffective. Painting a grim picture of the Nigeria Police in the eyes of the public, Olusegun (2014, p. 2) states thus;

The public sees the police as an instrument and face of the government in power that is always ready to unleash terror at the slightest opportunity. Hence, they are held in low regard and do not enjoy the habitual cooperation of the public. The public perception of the police is not shaped by the

kind of job they are called to do but by the attitude of the personnel. Their roles in many cases denigrate the law, endangering the citizens and blotting the institutional reputation of the police that they represent.

In their assessment of public perception of the police, Alemika and Chukwuma (2000) cited in Olusegun (2014) argue that the most realistic view is to see the police as a repressive organisation. On his part, Olusegun (2014) opines that the relationship between the police and the public in Nigeria is not cordial. He therefore concludes that the public perception of the police is warped based on the misuse of powers vested in them. The negative perception of the police in Nigeria is a direct fallout of the corruption and brutality that has been their regular hallmark. Nyam (2020) states that the people have a negative perception of the Nigeria Police Force and attributes that perception to the police unlawful dealing with the people. Obviously, these misdemeanors are bound to generate a very poor reputation and negative perception of the force by the citizens.

The Lilt of Comments on Bolanle Raheem and other Nigerians' Murdered by the Nigerian Police

Bolanle's death via a policeman's bullet reignited the deep-seated distrust and animosity between the citizens and the police with many taking to Twitter to react angrily to the lawyer's death. The lawyer's death seems to have reopened the old wounds and pain Nigerians have had to endure after the killing of their family members by trigger-happy policemen. Biodun (2022) laments police brutality and extrajudicial killings. He therefore warns that the citizens cannot again fold their arms while Nigerian police brutality stares us in the face as security operatives continuously cut short our lives. Okocha and Chigbo (2023) observe that globally, security forces have been notorious

in the use of excessive force in dealing with civilians. They cite cases in point to include the killing of Amadu Diallo in 1999, Patrick Dorismond in 2000 and the forceful arrest of George Floyd in 2020 that eventually resulted in his gruesome murder. These acts of brutality and murders by security forces have elicited strong condemnations and lilt comments from citizens anytime they occurred.

Similarly, Akerele-Popoola, Azeez, and Adeniyi (2022) who examined how Twitter has been used to organize protests in Nigeria found that in the last 10 years, Twitter and other social media platforms have served as primary tools of protests and

social activism against governments and its agencies' inactions. They particularly singled out Twitter as one platform that has been used to organize and execute social protests that include the 2012 #OccupyNigeria protest on the removal of fuel subsidy, the 2020 Special Anti-Robbery Squad Protest (#EndSARS), the #LiftTwitterBan, and very recently, #bolanleraheem. In all these protests, Nigerians' lilt comments have demonstrated their anger, displeasure and strong opposition to acts of injustice by the government and its agencies to the citizens. Similarly, Okocha and Chigbo (2023) analyzed Twitter reactions of netizens to the extraordinary rendition of Nnamdi Kanu from Kenya by the General Mohammedu Buhari's civilian administration and found that netizen's reactions portrayed the action of the Nigerian government and its agencies negatively as abusers of human rights.

Theoretical Framework

This study drew from the tenets of the interest of rights theory to examine Nigerians' Twitter comments on the killing of Bolanle Raheem by a Nigerian policeman, an action that infringed on her right to life. The interest of rights theory was propounded in 1987 by Bentham who argued that a person has distinctive human right when others have duties which protect one of that person's interests. Quoting Meckled-Garcia and Cali (2005), Okocha and Chigbo (2023) state that the focus of the interest theory of rights is to protect a citizen's rights against wrongdoing from another citizen within the same social political and judicial framework. In other words, the interest of rights theory holds that the principal function of human rights is to protect and promote the essential interests possessed by all human beings.

According to Okocha and Chigbo (2023), the interest theory describes the rights to protect the well-being of rights' holders (in the present case, the right to life with Bolanle

as the right holder) while contextualization of text, according to Dijk (2008) "is not the social situation that sways discourse, but the way participants term such situation." What this implies is that Nigerians' reactions were hinged on what they considered as the citizens' right to life. These reactions which epitomizes feedback to the constant depravation of Nigerians' right to life by policemen accentuate what Okocha & Chigbo (2023, p. 21,) refer to as the democratization of the media space via the Internet and technological advancements that have birthed social media apps which have enabled participatory communication in today's world that enhances citizens' reactions to topical national issues.

In his views on the context theory, Kovala (2014, p. 5) holds that "contexts are not out there to be picked up, instead, context is both starting point and end of analysis at the same time." To him, the reason some scholars emphasize the need to theorize context is that context theories are always there and if we do not tackle them, they may and will have the kind of influence on us that we would not like to have. Abimbola (2020) observes that the postulations of the interest of rights theory conflicts with international human rights law (IHRL) which seems to give the state the liberty to impinge on the basic rights of individuals or groups living within an area over which the state exercises sovereignty.

In the same vein, Neilsen, Cornia and Kalogeropoulos (2016) observe that in today's world that is dominated by the internet and mobile devices such as smartphones, tablets and personal computers, social media provide viable platforms for citizens to air their views and voice their discontent on topical national issues such as police brutality. For citizens, the move towards an increasing digital, mobile, and social media environment represents the

development of more high-choice environments. In fact, Twitter made it possible for Nigerians from all walks of life to react and make their voices to be heard loudly on Bolanle's killing by a policeman on 25th December, 2022.

In the light of the forgoing, the study employed the interest theory on human rights and the context theory to textually analyze citizens Twitter comments on the lawyer's killing; its influence on extra-judicial killing of citizens and how the image of the Nigeria Police Force was affected by the infringement on Bolanle's right to life as enshrined in the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended.

This theory, earlier applied by Okocha and Chigbo (2023) in their study on netizen's reaction to Kanu's arrest by President Muhammadu Buhari, is adopted in this study to assess Nigerians' Twitter comments on the killing of Bolanle Raheem by a Nigerian policeman because her rights to life were infringed upon by the very institution constitutionally empowered to protect her.

The interest of rights theory is relevant to this study because it seeks to protect the rights of individuals (in this case the right to life) against any violations by individuals or any institution of the state.

Method

This is a qualitative study that employed textual analysis to examine Twitter

Textual Analysis

The study textually analyzed twelve Twitter comments reflecting the reaction of Nigerians to the extrajudicial killing of Bolanle Raheem by an Assistant Superintendent of Police on December 25, 2022. The tweets were mowed from December 26, 2022 to March 27, 2023, covering a period of three months after the

comments on the killing of Bolanle Raheem by a Nigerian Policeman. Snyder (2019) highlights the importance and relevance of textual analysis as a research method when he asserts that it can be used to keep up with the accelerating speed of and the fragmented and interdisciplinary nature of knowledge. While agreeing with Snyder, Okocha and Chigbo (2023) say the method (Textual analysis) can be in the forefront of research which would otherwise be difficult. Data on the extrajudicial killing of Bolanle Raheem were garnered from relevant Twitter comments. The study employed a critical case purposive sampling technique to single out Twitter from all other social media platforms to select ten comments by Nigerians, one by a foreigner and one by an international organisation, giving a sample size of 12 comments, on the killing of the lawyer by an Assistant Superintendent of Police over a period of three months from December 26, 2022 to March 27, 2023. This is in line with Crossman's (2020, p. 10) postulation that "Critical case sampling is a type of purposive sampling in which just one case is chosen for study because the researcher anticipates that studying it will provide information that can be applied to other like cases." The choice of purposive sampling as a research method for this study was informed by its simplicity and appropriateness to the objectives of the study as well as the reliability of the data and the results. Data collected were analyzed using thematic and explanation building analysis.

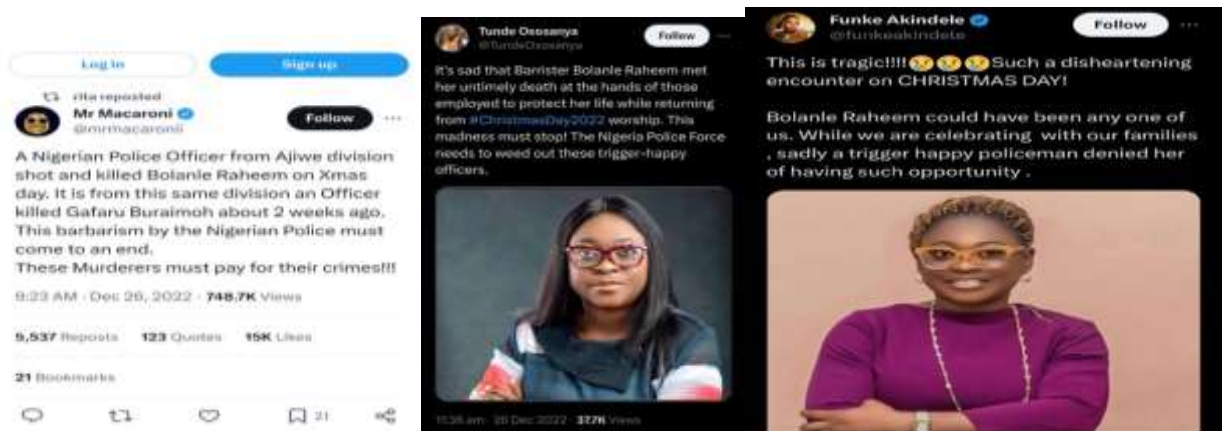
killing. The analyzed tweets had names of Nigerians from different walks of life including prominent politicians, celebrities, and artistes. There was a tweet with a foreign name and one international human rights organisation, Amnesty International, also commented to signify international interest in the case.

RO 1: Twitter comments on Bolanle Raheem’s killing by the Nigeria Policeman

Although Twitter comments by Nigerians on Bolanle Raheem’s killing by a policeman revealed differing levels of anger, the consensus is a high level of revulsion at the impunity, brutality and the reckless resort of the police to a deadly force. Some of the tweets condemned the action of the trigger-happy policeman and many others who turn their guns on Nigerian citizens they are paid to protect. Three of the tweets in this regard

are from a popular skit maker, Adebowale Adedayo, fondly known as Mr. Macaroni, Tunde Ososanya, and Funke Akindele. Mr. Macaroni, via his verified Twitter account, @mrfestusogun described officers from the Ajiwe Division, where the killer of Bolanle was attached, as evil and despicable men in uniform who are getting emboldened with their reckless lawlessness.

Excerpts 1



These tweets clearly demonstrate how Nigerians are miffed at the reckless brutality and inhuman treatment personnel of the Nigerian Police Force constantly mete out to citizens. The tweets also answer research question one, which probed Nigerians’ twitter comments on the lawyer’s killing.

RO2: The inflection of Twitter comments by Nigerians on Bolanle Raheem’s killing by a Nigerian policeman

Regarding the tone of Twitter comments by Nigerians on Bolanle Raheem’s killing, three tweets expressed grief and pain for the slain lawyer and her family and one actually called for the prosecution of the policeman responsible for her death.

Excerpts 2

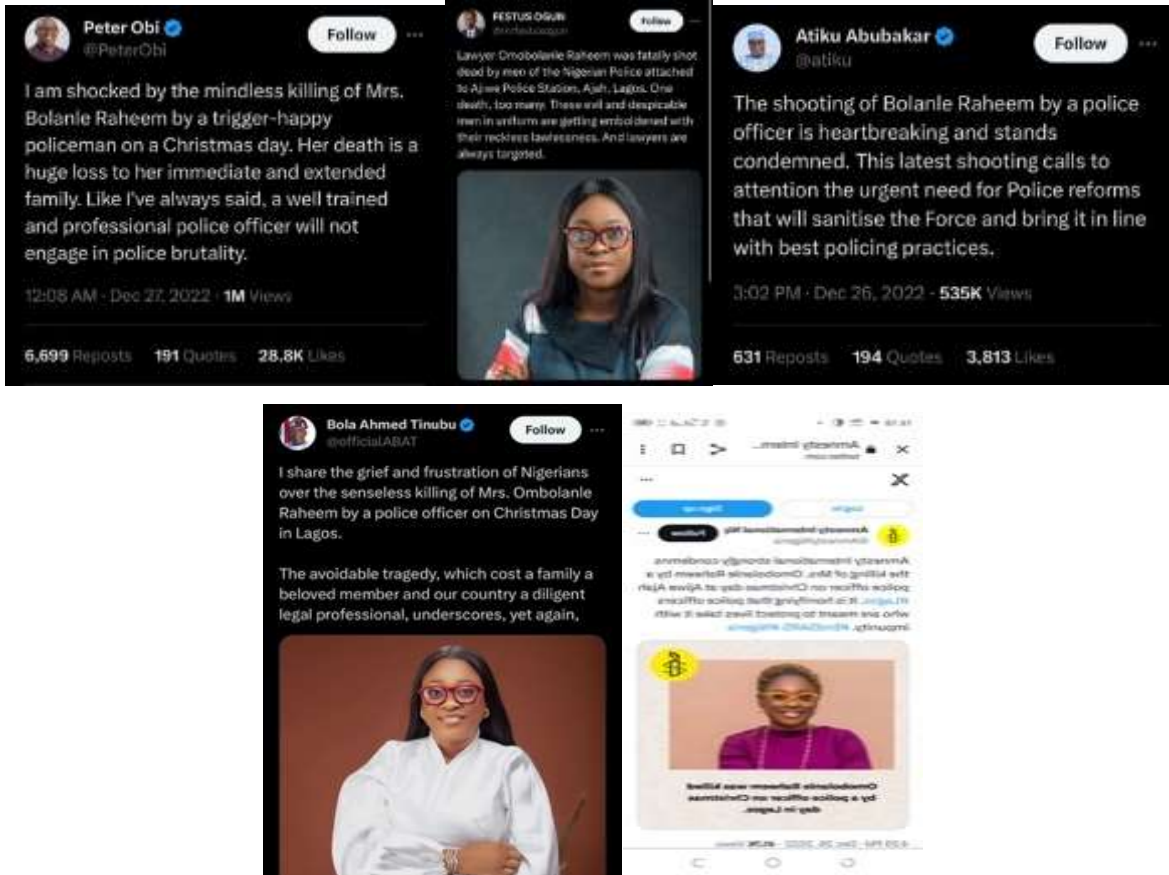


The tone of these tweets imply that Nigerians are livid, pained, and frustrated with the mindless killings and sundary acts of intimidation and degrading treatments policemen always inflict on the citizens. The tweets therefore provide the relevant information that addressed research objective two which sought to establish the intonation of twitter comments by Nigerians on Bolanle's killing.

R03: How the Nigerian police's image was affected by twitter comments on the killing of Bolanle Raheem by a Policeman.

Twitter comments on Bolanle Raheem's killing by a policeman show clearly that Nigerians are opinionated about the battered image of the police force. Expressing their shock at the mindless killing of Mrs. Bolanle Raheem on a Christmas day, Peter Obi @PeterObi, Festus Ogun, Atiku Abubakar, and Bola Ahmad Tinubu all condemned the killing. @PeterObi in particular, called for the proper training of professional police officers to purge them of the culture and mentality of brutality. Their tweets read thus:

Excerpts 3



These scathing comments reveal the blighted image of the Police Force in the eyes of right-thinking Nigerians. They also provided the relevant data that answered research question three.

Discussion of Findings

This study, which set out to analyze Twitter comments by Nigerians on Bolanle Raheem's killing by a Nigerian policeman, made findings that fulfil the research objectives, answer the research questions as well as confirm the postulations and assumptions of the interest and context theories. For instance, objective one ascertained Nigerians' Twitter comments on Bolanle's killing. Findings from the study indicate that not only were there myriads of Twitter comments by Nigerians on the brutal killing of Bolanle Raheem on December 25, 2022 by an officer of the Nigeria Police Force but the reactions portrayed Nigerians'

misgivings about the lack of professionalism, brutality, recklessness, impunity, total disregard to the rights of Nigerians including right to life and the horrifying character of personnel of the force. This was clearly stated in many tweeted comments outlining cases of harassment, arbitrary arrests, torture and even extrajudicial killings of the citizens with the current case under discourse as just one of them. These findings show clearly that Nigerians are aghast at the behaviour of the police against the citizens. The findings are in tandem with those of Edo and Sagay (2012), who hold that the spate of extra judicial killings in Nigeria has not only questioned the effectiveness and efficiency required of the police in carrying out their

duties, but also greatly undermined human security. The findings also conform to the assumptions of the interest of rights theory which postulates that the principal function of human rights is to protect and promote the essential interests possessed by all human beings. The findings also confirm those of Neilsen, Cornia et al. (2016) who posit that in today's world, dominated by the internet and mobile devices such as smartphones, tablets and personal computers, social media provide viable platforms for citizens to air their views and voice their discontent on topical national issues such as police brutality. The findings agree with that of Okocha & Chigbo (2022) who found that the relationship between the Nigerian Security Forces has been characterized by conflicts, accusations and counter-accusations. This necessitates serious reforms that will sanitize the Force and purge it of bad eggs. On the strength of this finding, there is a compelling need for serious reforms that will reposition the Police Force for global best practices.

Objective two evaluated the pattern of Nigerians' Twitter comments on the lawyer's killing. An important finding of the study is that the pattern of the tweets from Nigerians concerning Bolanle's killing demonstrate their anger, frustration and disappointment with the Police Force in the country. This has resulted in a strained relationship between it and the citizens. This finding agrees with that of Akinyetun and Adedini (2022), who assert

Conclusion

This study designed to textually analyze Bolanle Raheem's killing by a Nigerian policeman was a work anchored on the tenets of interest of rights theory. Twelve tweets on the issue were harvested and the comments carefully analyzed. Nigerians, through their comments on Twitter see the Nigerian Police Force as anti-civilian, brutish, corrupt and unprofessional. Indeed, some tweets referred to the personnel of the

that in Nigeria there is a high tendency for people of low socioeconomic status to experience police brutality, or even become victims of extra-judicial killing. This calls for concerted efforts by the Police Authority to not only sharpen the professionalism of the personnel but also to properly orient them to know their constitutional responsibilities and obligations to the citizens.

Objective three assessed how the image of the police was affected by Twitter comments on Bolanle Raheem's killing. The study revealed that Nigerians' Twitter comments on Bolanle Raheem's killing seriously dented the image of the Force in the estimation of the citizens. This is evident from the uncomplimentary, derogatory and disparaging words used to describe the Force in the tweets. However, the study found that most Nigerians considered the tweets appropriate due to what they believed to be the blatant violation of the female lawyer's fundamental rights to live. Most of the tweets analyzed portrayed the Nigerian Police Force negatively with some even calling for its demobilization. The finding confirms that of Okocha et al., (2022) who found that many citizens have lost confidence in the security forces as they perceive them to be brutal, contemptuous of civilians, manipulative, lawless, propagandist and corrupt. This means that the Nigeria Police Force must urgently look inward and reappraise their operating methods.

force whose actions are at variance with their constitutional responsibilities as insane. They therefore called for urgent and concerted efforts by the police authorities to carry out reforms to sensitize and orient the personnel of the Force to their constitutional duties of protecting the citizens. These comments portrayed the Nigerian Police Force in a negative light and seriously damaged its image. It is therefore the position of this

paper that the inappropriate and unconstitutional behaviours, brutality and extrajudicial killing of Bolanle Raheem and many other Nigerians by the personnel of the

Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusion reached, the study recommends as follows:

1. Government should do everything necessary to ensure serious reforms that will sanitize the Force and purge it of bad eggs.
2. The Police Authority should design and implement clear policy directions on police

Nigerian Police Force brought public odium on the Force.

recruitments and training that will not only sharpen the professionalism of the personnel but also properly orient them to their constitutional responsibilities and obligations to the citizens.

3. The Nigeria Police Force must, as a matter of urgency, look inward and reappraise their operating methods in line with policing best practices with a deliberate aim at redeeming a battered image.

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