

Role of national human rights commission on the restitution of civil and socio-economic rights of the residents in Federal Capital Territory, (FCT), Abuja.

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Abstract

This study examined the role of National Human Rights Commission on civil and Socio-economic Rights restitution in Federal Capital Territory Abuja, Nigeria. This Study adopted John Locke's theory of Natural Rights (1658) who contributed immensely to political and philosophical ideas at the enlightenment age. This study adopted a survey research design. Both Primary and secondary method of data collection were used for the study. Multiple regression statistical analysis was used to analyze the data. Finding from the study shows that, National human right commission has played a significant role in the investigating complaints of civil and economic rights abuses. However, the study noted that the National Human Rights Commission has not played any significant role in providing relief and medical care to the victim(s) of civil and economic rights abuses. The study also shows that the National Human Rights Commission has secured compensation for the victims of human right abuses in Federal Capital Territory Abuja. National Human Rights Commission has not secured conviction for the prosecution of Civil and economic rights abusers. The study recommends that there is need for complete revamping of National Human Rights Commission to make it more effective and truly a watchdog of human right violations in the country. National Human Rights Commission should be empowered financially to provide some first aid relief materials to the affected victims of civil and socio-economic right abuses before taken any appropriate actions. The recommendation of the National Human Rights Commission for the compensations of the victims of civil and socio-economic right abuses should be implemented. A special court should be established for the prosecution of violators of civil and socio-economic right abuses in FCT.

Keyword: National Human Rights Commission, civil and Socio-economic Rights, restitution, Human rights abuses, victim(s) and Federal Capital Territory.



Introduction

The issues of forced removals and forced evictions have in recent years reached the international human rights agenda because they are considered as practices that do grave and disastrous harm to the basic civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of large numbers of people, both individual persons and collectivities. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in its General Comment 4 (adopted at its sixth session in 1991) on the right to adequate housing, deemed legal procedures seeking compensation following an illegal eviction of the possible remedies in connection with the right to adequate housing.¹ The Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1993/77 on the subject of forced evictions, recommended that all Governments should provide immediate restitution, compensation and/or appropriate and sufficient alternative accommodation or land, consistent with their wishes and needs.

As regards the obligation of States parties to ensure that persons whose rights and freedoms are violated have an effective remedy (art. 2, para. 3, of the Covenant), the Committee, in addition to mandate stating its opinion that States parties are under an obligation to take effective measures to remedy violations, has spelled out specific types of remedies that are called for, depending on the nature of violations and the condition of the victim(s). Consequently, the Human Rights Committee has repeatedly expressed the view that the State party is under an obligation: (a) To investigate the facts; (b) To take action thereon as appropriate; (c) To bring to justice persons found to be responsible; (d) To extend to the victim(s) treatment in accordance with the provisions and the guarantees of the Covenant; (e) To provide medical care to the victim(s); (f) To pay compensation to the victim(s) or to his (her) family.

As regards the obligation to pay compensation, the Human Rights Committee has used a variety of formulations: (a) Compensation to the victim (the disappeared person) of his family for any injury which he has suffered; (b) Compensation to the husband for the death of his wife; (c) Appropriate compensation to the family of the person killed; (d) Compensation for the wrongs suffered; (e) Compensation for physical and mental injury and suffering caused to the victim by the inhuman treatment to which he was subjected; (f) Compensation to the surviving families. In this respect two observations should be made. First, it may be assumed that in the Committee's views the basis for determining the amount or nature of the compensation is not only physical injury or damage but also mental injury or damage. Second, it is not fully clear whether the Committee recognizes in the case of the death or disappearance of a person, that family members are in their own right entitled to compensation because of their own sufferings and anguish or those family members are entitled to compensation for the injury inflicted upon the immediate victim.

Substantial provisions relating to various questions of restitution, compensation and assistance for victims of crime are contained in the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power (General Assembly resolution 40/34 of 29 November 1985)². The

¹ The Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1993/77

² General Assembly resolution 40/34 of 29 November 1985

Declaration provides for the following: (a) Victims are entitled to prompt redress for the harm that they have suffered; (b) They should be informed of their rights in seeking redress; (c) Offenders or third parties should make fair restitution to victims, their families or dependents. Such restitution should include the return of property or payment for the harm or loss suffered, reimbursement of expenses incurred as a result of the victimization, the provision of services and the restoration of rights; (d) When compensation is not fully available from the offender or other sources, States should endeavor to provide financial compensation; (e) Victims should receive the necessary material, medical, psychological and social assistance and support. The Declaration also provides that Governments should review their practices, regulations and laws to consider restitution as an available sentencing option in criminal cases, in addition to other criminal sanctions (principle 9).

Successive regimes in Nigeria, both military and civilian, have resorted to ruthless forced evictions, to the extent that between 2010 and 2020 over 3,000 households were brutally evicted from their homes. Often this was without prior notice or efforts at resettlement, and was accompanied by looting, rape, and even murder. An FCDA squad demolished parts of Kado village, about 10 kilometres from Abuja³. More than 200 houses were demolished, rendering hundreds of people homeless and causing the death of six. Property valued at about 10 million naira was reported to have been lost. According to a former Kado resident, a questionable notice served two days before the demolition was the only indication of impending demolition. The COHRE FFM team discovered that this notice dated 30 June 2000 but with no official signatories, warned residents to move off their lands if they wanted to avoid unpleasant consequences. Kado leaders said they had done everything possible to ascertain the origin of the notice, but were repeatedly rebuffed by reluctant officials who claimed ignorance.

In September and October 2010 the FCDA demolition squad moved into Durumi I & II, Church village, Dagba and parts of Garki area 1, where it wreaked the greatest havoc. The Waziri (community leader) of Durumi I informed the COHRE FFM team that, in his community, demolitions had been carried out three times a week for four weeks, with over 200 armed policemen involved (Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE), 2014). The FCT Government, through the Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB), was combating unauthorised trading and makeshift shops in the metropolis. The AEPB demolished the so-called 'makeshift supermarkets and boutiques' as residents and small business operators watched helplessly. Property with an estimated value of over 500 million naira was bulldozed. This sparked rioting by traders, who started a number of fires and attacked the demolition officials (Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE), 2014).

3 Farha, Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context. United Nations Human Right Office, 2019. Retrieved from <https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25033&LangID=E>

The study conducted by Guissé and Joinet (2020) examined Special Rapporteurs of the Sub-Commission on Human Rights issues across the countries and it found that a clear nexus exists between the impunity of perpetrators of gross violations of human rights and the failure to provide just and adequate reparation to the victims and their families or dependents. Another study conducted by United Nations Working Group (2020)⁴ examined the enforced or involuntary disappearances of children in developing countries and it was found that, perhaps the single most important factor contributing to the phenomenon of disappearances is that of impunity. This study seeks to x-ray the extent the National Human Rights Commission has investigated complaints of civil and economic rights abuses in FCT Abuja. This study also examines whether the National Human Rights Commission has provided relief and medical care to the victim(s) of civil and economic rights abuses in FCT Abuja as well as determine whether the National Human Rights Commission has addressed grievances of Civil and economic rights abuses in FCT Abuja. The following hypotheses were formulated to guide the study;

- i. National Human Rights Commission has not played any significant role in the investigating complaints of civil and economic rights abuses,
- ii. National Human Rights Commission has not played any significant role in providing relief and medical care to the victim(s) of civil and economic rights abuses,
- iii. National Human Rights Commission has not played any significant role in Addressing grievances of Civil and economic rights abuses,

Conceptual Framework

Civil and Socio-Economic Right

The United Nations (UN)⁵ considered socio-economic right under various headings: right to decent house, rights to universal public services, right to education, health care and other public services that everyone is entitled to and that it is primarily the responsibility of public authorities to fund, provide or otherwise support decent living conditions.

In developing economies, these may take the form of specific rights to food, water and so on (subsistence rights)⁶. In industrial and post-industrial economies, decent living conditions are more frequently delivered through redistributive transfer payments in the form of welfare benefits, unemployment assistance, disabled and veterans benefits and old-age pensions (Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, 2018). These differ from universal public services in that they tend to take the form of cash payments and are usually targeted at specific need groups. The rights of workers, that is, labour rights, defend workers against exploitative working conditions. They may include entitlements to days of rest and holidays, maximum working hours, a

4 Nations Working Group (2020)

5 United Nations (UN), (2016)

6 Donnelly, Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice. New York: Cornell University Press, 2003.

minimum wage, the right to form and join trade unions, workplace 'co-determination' rights (i.e. giving workers a voice in the management of enterprises), protections against arbitrary dismissal and prohibition of workplace harassment and rules for the protection of workers' health and safety (George, 2016).

Under Chapter II of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999⁷ (as amended) that provides for Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy. All authorities' legislative, executive or judicial powers are under the duty and responsibility to conform to, to observe, and apply the Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy. The economic objectives of the nation are stipulated in Section 16 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended). The state is empowered to harness the resources of the Nation and promote national prosperity and an efficient, dynamic and self-reliant economy; control the national economy in such manner as to secure the maximum welfare, freedom and happiness of every citizen on the basis of social justice and equality of status and opportunity. Without prejudice to its rights to operate or participate in areas of the economy, other than the major sectors of the economy, the state is empowered to manage and operate the major sectors of the economy; and to protect the right of every citizen to engage in any economic activities outside the major sectors of the economy. Section 17 dealing with social objectives provides that, social order of the state is founded on ideals of freedom, equality, and justice. In furtherance of the social order: every Citizen shall have equality of rights, obligations and opportunities; the sanctity of the human person shall be recognized and human dignity shall be maintained and enhanced. The Section requires that governmental actions shall be humane, while prohibiting the exploitation of human or natural resources in any form whatsoever for reasons other than the good of the community. The Section further enjoins that the independence, impartiality and integrity of Courts of law, and easy accessibility thereto shall be secured and maintained. The State is required to direct its policy towards ensuring that all Citizens, without discrimination on any ground whatsoever, have the opportunity for securing adequate means of livelihood as well as adequate opportunity to secure suitable employment. It enacts that conditions of work should be just and humane, and that there should be adequate facilities for leisure and for social, religious and cultural life. Governmental policy should also ensure that the health, safety and welfare of all persons in employment are safeguarded and not endangered or abused; that there are adequate medical and health facilities for all persons; that there is equal pay for equal work without discrimination on account of sex, or on any ground whatsoever.

Socio-economic rights may often be specifically applied to particular social groups. For example, the Nigeria government specifically refers to the position of women, people with disabilities, young people, the elderly or members of ethnic or linguistic minorities by creating special ministry and agencies for the protection of their interest (UN)⁸.

⁷ Chapter II of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999

⁸ United Nations, 2016

The right to private property is usually regarded as a civil right (Inter-American Commission on Human Right)⁹. The framing of property rights particularly, the recognition that the right to property is not absolute, that it may be limited by social needs and may carry with it responsibilities can have important socio-economic consequences. Property rights 'ought, in civil society, to be regulated by the principles of social justice', and allows the state, by law, to 'delimit the exercise of [property rights] with a view to reconciling their exercise with the common good'¹⁰.

Restitution

The concept has been used widely to compensate victims of abuse of any kind. Restitution provides relief to victims of abuse as it seeks to compensate people who have been seriously traumatized. Restitution is postulated on the theory that the individuals in society have three "fundamental" interests that the law will protect¹¹. These are the interest in the fulfillment of promises, the interest in freedom from harm by another, and the interest in having restored a benefit gained by one person at another's expense if the retention of the benefit by the other would be unjust¹².

Dickinson¹³ suggested that one should start with the premise that the purpose of the law is to adjust the relations between parties in accordance with what is just. That is, there is only one basic interest, justice, on which to base the law. Restitution is a situation in which a promise, express or implied in fact, is the foundation of the obligation. Thus, assuming it is just to require persons to perform promises which can be proved and which do not violate public policy, performance will be enforced or compensation will be required to place the promise in approximately the position he would have held had the promise been performed.

Restitution measures are intended to acknowledge harm, as well as repair or compensate whether state or non-state actors acting under the color of law commit the violations. One understanding of the term Restitution denotes a process in which a person tries to come to terms with what has happened and enter a process of healing. It can refer to something that takes place in the individual, a complex psychological process that may be endangered or supported, but never directed or managed by others. Conditions can be favorable and beneficial or they can be detrimental and destructive to the process, but the process as such goes on in the hands, mind, and heart of the person¹⁴. Even when Restitution is understood as a lengthy and complex psychological process, it remains linked to the different stages of a process toward justice, if there is one. It is reasonable to believe that experiences in

9 Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, 2018

10 Ibid, 2018

11 Dickinson, my philosophy of law, in my philosophy of law 89, 91 (1941); e. bodenheimer, jurisprudence 213, 2012.

12 Ibid, 2012

13 Ibid, 2012

14 Hamber, toward a theory of empirical natural rights. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2009.

relation to justice, both good and bad, will have repercussions on the person's capacity to heal, come to terms with what happened and move on.

However, restitution is an obligation of states to repair damages to victims of torture and their families. Article 14 of the United Nation Convention against Torture requires the state to ensure that a person who has been tortured obtains redress including the means for as full rehabilitation as is possible¹⁵. As promising as this may seem, the fact is that most persons exposed to torture will be in immediate need of care and rehabilitation and will not be in a position to address and submit formal claims for reparation. Restitution as reparation is a complex issue representing major challenges actualizing it in practical, clinical, and legally. (Redress, 2010). To approach this issue, some central human rights documents on rehabilitation as reparation will be referred to.

According to Williams¹⁶ restitution includes: first, those situations where recovery is allowed because property is transferred or services are rendered by mistake; second, where a benefit is conferred upon another through coercion; third, where money or property is transferred in expectation of receiving something which is not in fact obtained; fourth, where a benefit is conferred without mistake, coercion or request but public policy sanctions recovery; fifth, where a benefit was acquired (right- fully or wrongfully) without any act by the claimant for which the benefited party should account either in quasi-contract or constructive trust¹⁷

Buyse¹⁸ sees Restitution as a human rights way in which a violation of international law can be remedied. In order for such a remedy to become applicable, there will first have to be a violation of a human right. These remedies involve access to justice in situations of alleged violations of a legal norm. This entails the possibility to lodge a complaint before a judicial, administrative or other body that can redress the harm done. On the other hand, remedies also have a substantive meaning. The concern measures taken to "make good the damages caused" Whereas the former relates to the availability and form of the procedure, the latter concerns its outcome. The confusion this gives rise to in English, is absent in other languages.

Empirical Review

Guissé and Joinet¹⁹ examined Special Rapporteurs of the Sub-Commission on Human Rights issues across the countries. The study questions issues relating to the right to restitution, compensation and rehabilitation for victims of gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms is bound to face the issue of impunity. Finding from the shows that a clear nexus exists between the

15 UN, 2014

16 Williams, Language and the Law-II, 61 L.Q. REv. 179, 2014.

17 Ibid, 2014

18 Buyse, Lost and regained? restitution as a remedy for human rights violations in the context of international law. International Review of the red cross, Vol. 85(850), 2008

19 Guissé, and Joinet, Special Rapporteurs of the Sub-Commission on Human Rights issues across the countries. Vol. 9(2), 23-37, 2020.

impunity of perpetrators of gross violations of human rights and the failure to provide just and adequate reparation to the victims and their families or dependents.

The United Nations Working Group²⁰ examined Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances of children in developing countries. Finding from the study shows that, perhaps the single most important factor contributing to the phenomenon of disappearances is that of impunity. Perpetrators of human rights violations, whether civilian or military, become more irresponsible if they are not held to account before a court of law. It may therefore be concluded that in a social and political climate where impunity prevails, the right to reparation for victims of gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms is likely to become illusory. It is hard to perceive that a system of justice that cares for the rights of victims can remain at the same time indifferent and inert towards gross misconduct of perpetrators.

Goldman²¹ examined Impunity and international law. The study revealed that, Human Rights Committee at its forty-fourth session in 1992 relating to the prohibition of torture, the Committee recommends that amnesties in respect of acts of torture are generally incompatible with the duty of States to investigate such acts; to guarantee freedom from such acts within their jurisdiction; and to ensure that they do not occur in the future. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (2018) examined compensation and rehabilitation of human right victims in Uruguay. The study revealed that the States may not deprive individuals of the right to an effective remedy, including compensation and such as full rehabilitation as may be possible. The study concluded the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights relied heavily on the judgment when it concluded in the cases of eight petitioners that Uruguay's amnesty law, which grants impunity to officials who had violated human rights during the period of military rule.

Similarly, Boven²² examined the right to restitution, compensation and rehabilitation for victims of gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The study took into account the comments made in the discussion on the preliminary and progress reports, and revealed that a set of conclusions and recommendations are relevant in providing the right to restitution, compensation and rehabilitation for victims of gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. In a similar vein, Quiroga²³ examined battle of human rights: Gross, Systematic Violations of human right. The study revealed the elements and type of rights involved and the character of violations to be included in the human right abuses and restitution guideline. The study concludes that, the type of rights involved, include rights to life, to personal integrity or to personal liberty.

20 United Nations Working Group (2020)

21 Goldman. Impunity and international law: Inter-American Commission on Human Rights journal of American Law, Vol. 35(6), 153-164, 2019

22 Boven The right to restitution, compensation and rehabilitation for victims of gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Journal of Press. Vol. 12(9), 18-22, 2019.

23 Quiroga, The Battle of Human Rights: Gross, Systematic Violations of human right. Vol. 2(3), 19-31, 2019.

The International Law Commission²⁴ examined factors responsible for gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The study revealed that under a number of international instruments any violation of provisions of these instruments may entail a right to an appropriate remedy, the present study focuses on gross violations of human rights as distinct from other violations. No agreed definition exists of the term “gross violations of human rights”. It appears that the word “gross” qualifies the term “violations” and indicates the serious character of the violations but that the word “gross” is also related to the type of human right that is being violated. Most of the studies examined above were done outside the country. Specifically, no study, to the best of our knowledge, has been done in Nigeria, including the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, Abuja; hence the imperative nature of this study.

Theoretical Framework

Theory is the basic foundation to which a research study is built. Theory, therefore, provides an explanation of a phenomenon. This Study adopted John Locke's Theory of Natural Rights of 1658. The theory of natural rights is attributed to John Locke, a 17th century British philosopher (1632 – 1704) who contributed immensely to political and philosophical ideas at the enlightenment age and was among one of the philosophers to suggest that individuals are entitled to ‘natural rights’ in his work; ‘The Two Treatise of Government’ which he wrote in 1680. Affirming this, is Schwoerer²⁵ who accounted that Locke believed that the world was orderly and rational, and that it was governed by fixed permanent laws. He believed that these laws were instituted into man by God, and were called “natural laws”. In the Second Treatise, Locke was of the view that men in a state of nature created a community by entering into what he called ‘social contract’, but that the community in turn bestows power on a government in a social relationship rather than a contractual one. Therefore, if the trust of the community is betrayed by the government, then power can be taken away from the government on whom it is vested.

This theory is relevant to the study because, the theory serves as a major foundation on which modern human rights is built and for which it is entrenched universally in our present time. The theory points out that right to life, liberty, freedom from torture and other cruel treatments, and right to own property are to be guaranteed by the government of a state. This, however, serves as a blue print for the pursuit of the United Nations, as the organization advocates the entrenchment of human rights in every sovereign state in order to promote peace and reduce conflict both locally and in the international system.

Methodology

This study adopts survey research which involves gathering information based on the sample opinion gotten from the target population. This survey research also established a reliable way of finding out the relationship between variable

²⁴ The International Law Commission, 2020.

²⁵ Schwoerer, The right to resist: Whig resistance theory, 1688 to 1694. Cambridge University Press, 2010.

under study. The populations of this study are complainants of civil and socio-economic human right abuses living in Federal Capital Territory. A total of one and Forty Eight Thousand complainants (148,000) of human right complaints received in Federal Capital Territory were used as studied population in order to ascertain the effect of the NHRC in restituting their cases. The study employed the simple random sampling techniques whereby the researcher issued questionnaires to those complainants of human right abuses. The total population of complainants (148,000) complaints was narrow down to determine the sample size using the Taro Yamane (1964) formula;

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where n = sample size

N = total population size

1 is constant

e = the assume error margin or tolerable error which is taken as 5% (0.05)

$$n = \frac{3,612}{1 + 3,612(0.05)^2} = \frac{3,612}{9.03} \quad n = 400$$

The study used primary and secondary data. The primary data were collected through the instrument self-structured questionnaire. The questionnaire was close ended question. Secondary data were sourced from the Textbook, Journal Publication, report cases of human right abuses.

Result and Discussion

Table 1: Model Summary^b

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted Square	R Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson
1	.903 ^a	.815	.811	.39602	2.017

a. Predictors: (Constant), investigated complaints on civil and economic rights abuses, provide relief and medical care to the victim(s) of civil and economic rights abuses, Addressing grievances of Civil and economic rights abuses, follow-up on the prosecution of perpetrators Civil and economic rights abuses and compensation of the victim of Civil and economic rights abuses.

Table 2: ANOVA^a

Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	169.689	5	33.938	216.396	.000 ^b
Residual	38.581	246	.157		
Total	208.270	251			

A. Dependent Variable: Restitution

b. Predictors: (Constant), investigated complaints on civil and economic rights abuses, provide relief and medical care to the victim(s) of civil and economic rights abuses, Addressing grievances of Civil and economic rights abuses, follow-up on the prosecution of perpetrators Civil and economic rights abuses and compensation of the victim of Civil and economic rights abuses

Table 3: Co-efficients^a

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
(Constant)	.063	.109		.576	.565
investigated complaints on civil and economic rights abuses	.742	.704	.740	.704	.000
provide relief and medical care to the victim(s) of civil and economic rights abuses	-.025	.042	.069	0.583	.010
Addressing grievances of Civil and economic rights abuses	.050	.409	.048	.121	.903
follow-up on the prosecution of perpetrators Civil and economic rights abuses	.372	.252	.349	1.472	.142
compensation of the victim of Civil and economic rights abuses	-.024	.056	-.024	-.434	.664

a. Dependent Variable: Restitution

The value of R in table 1 shows that there is correlation between independent and dependent variable. R Squared is 0.96 in the model which shows that 90% variation in the dependent variable is described by the independent variable i.e. the role of National Human right Commission and 10% variation is not explained by the independent variables. The value of F= 216.396 and is significant supporting the model relevant to the study.

Hypothesis I

i. The result from the analysis shows that the calculated value of X^2 stood at 0.00 which shows the relationship between the two variables and the level of significance is 0.00 is less than the estimated value of X at 0.05. Since the

calculated regression value is less than the estimated value of X. we will reject the null hypothesis which stated that; National human right commission has not played any significant role in the investigating complaints of civil and economic rights abuses and accept the alternative hypothesis which stated that, There is significant relationship between National human right commission has played a significant role in the investigating complaints of civil and economic rights abuses. This finding is in line with data retrieved from the National Human Right Commission on the civil and economic rights abuses complaints received and investigated as stated below:

Record shows that, a total of One Hundred and Forty Eight Thousand (148,000) complaints on human rights abuses were received between 2015-2020, One Hundred and Twenty Six Thousand (126,000) were investigated by National Human Rights Commission office in Abuja.

Table 4: Number of Civil and Economic Rights Abuses Complaints received and investigated By the National Human Rights Commission Abuja From 2014 – 2020.

S/N	YEARS	Total Number of Complaints Received	Total Number of Complaints Investigated
1	2014	8,252	6,124
2	2015	13,521	13,138
3	2016	26,153	20,417
4	2017	17,924	15,892
5	2018	52,254	41,567
6	2019	16,432	15,842
7	2020	13,464	13,021
	Total	148,000	126,000

Source: National Human Right Commission Abuja, 2021

Hypothesis II

ii. The result from the analysis shows that, the calculated value of X^2 stood at 0.10 which shows the relationship between the two variables and the level of significance is 0.00 is less than the estimated value of X at 0.05. Since the calculated regression value is less than the estimated value of X. we will accept the null hypothesis which stated that; National human right commission has not played any significant role in providing relief and medical care to the victim(s) of civil and economic rights abuses, and reject the alternative hypothesis which stated that, National Human Rights Commission has played a significant role in providing relief and medical care to the victim(s) of civil and economic rights abuses.

This finding is in line with data retrieved from the National Human Right Commission on relief and medical care received by the victim(s) of civil and economic rights abuses as stated below:

Record shows that, out of Hundred and Twenty Six Thousand (126,000) complaints investigated on human rights abuses between 2014 – 2020. Fifty Seven Thousand, Five Hundred and Forty Two (57,542) victims received relief and medical care from the National Human Right Commission Abuja.

Table 5: Number of civil and economic rights abuses From 2014 – 2020.

S/N	YEAR S	Total Number of Complaints Investigated	Total Number of Victims that received relief and medical care.
1	2014	6,124	193
2	2015	13,138	7,162
3	2016	20,417	13,952
4	2017	15,892	9,106
5	2018	41,567	10,860
6	2019	15,842	10,008
7	2020	13,021	6,261
	Total	126,000	57,542

Source: National Human Right Commission Abuja, 2021

Hypothesis III

iii. The result from the analysis shows that, the calculated value of X^2 stood at 0.90 which shows the relationship between the two variables and the level of significance is 0.90 is greater than the estimated value of X at 0.05. Since the calculated regression value is greater than the estimated value of X , we reject the null hypothesis which stated that; National Human Rights Commission has not play any significant role in addressing grievances of Civil and economic rights abuses and accept the alternative hypothesis which stated that, we reject the null hypothesis which stated that; National Human Rights Commission has played a significant role in addressing grievances of Civil and economic rights abuses.

This finding is in line with data retrieved on the number of Complaints addressed on civil and economic rights abuses by National Human Right Commission on as stated below:

Record shows that, out of Hundred and Twenty Six Thousand (126,000) complaints investigated on human rights abuses between 2014 – 2020. Fifty Six Thousand, One Hundred and Sixty Eight (56,168) Complaints were addressed by National Human Right Commission Abuja.

Table 4: Number of civil and economic rights abuses From 2014 – 2020.

S/N	YEAR S	Total Number of Complaints Investigated	Total Number of Complaints addressed.
1	2014	6,124	2,164
2	2015	13,138	7,442
3	2016	20,417	9,831
4	2017	15,892	8,320
5	2018	41,567	15,219
6	2019	15,842	7,931
7	2020	13,021	5,261
	Total	126,000	56,168

Source: National Human Right Commission Abuja, 2021

Discussion of Finding

- i. Finding from the study revealed that, National Human Rights Commission has played a significant role in the investigating complaints of civil and economic rights abuses. The study revealed National Human Rights Commission have investigated complaints of civil and economic rights abuses raging from ruthless forced evictions FCT indigenous residents, rape, murder, violation of women right, discrimination against people with disabilities, arbitrary dismissal domestic violence and denial of quality education, health as well as social service in FCT. This finding agreed with the study conducted by Goldman²⁶ whose study revealed that, Human Rights Committee at its forty-fourth session in 1992 relating to the prohibition of torture, the Committee recommends that amnesties in respect of acts of torture are generally incompatible with the duty of States to investigate such acts; to guarantee freedom from such acts within their jurisdiction; and to ensure that they do not occur in the future.
- ii. Finding from the study revealed that, National Human Rights Commission has not played a significant role in providing relief and medical care to the victim(s) of civil and economic rights abuses. The victims of civil and socio-economic right abuses did not provide relief materials to the victims but rather, it is a National Emergency Management Agency and the Non-Governmental Organizations that Provide relief material to the victims of civil and socio-economic right abuses in FCT. This finding goes contrary to the conducted by International Law Commission²⁷ whose study revealed that, under a number of international instruments any violation of provisions of these instruments may entail a right to an appropriate remedy; the present study focuses on gross violations of human rights as distinct from other violations. No agreed definition exists of the term “gross violations of

²⁶ Ibid, 2019

²⁷ Ibid, 2020

human rights". It appears that the word "gross" qualifies the term "violations" and indicates the serious character of the violations but that the word "gross" is also related to the type of human right that is being violated.

- iii. Finding from the study revealed that, National Human Rights Commission has played a significant role in addressing grievances of Civil and economic rights abuses. NHRC to some extent has monitored and investigated all alleged cases of human rights violations in FCT. The commission has made appropriate recommendation to the federal government for the prosecution; National Human Rights Commission has assisted the victims of civil and socio-economic rights violations to seek appropriate redress and remedies on their behalf. This finding agreed with the study conducted by Quiroga²⁸ whose finding also revealed that, the elements and type of rights involved and the character of violations to be included in the human right abuses and restitution guideline. The study concludes that, the type of rights involved, include rights to life, to personal integrity or to personal liberty.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Conclusion

The study concludes that, National Human Rights Commission to some extent has investigated complaints of civil and economic rights abuses brought before it. These civil and economic rights abuses ranged from ruthless forced evictions FCT indigenous residents, rape, murder, violation of women right, discrimination against people with disabilities, arbitrary dismissal domestic violence and denial of quality education, health as well as social service in FCT. The victims of civil and socio-economic right abuses has not received any form of relief materials from the National Human Rights Commission but rather, it is a National Emergency Management Agency and the Non-Governmental Organizations that provided relief material to the victims of civil and socio-economic right abuses in FCT. The study also concludes that, National Human Rights Commission to some extent has addressed grievances of Civil and economic rights abuses through monitored and investigated all alleged cases of human rights violations in FCT. It was concluded that, the commission only made appropriate recommendation to the federal government for compensation and prosecution of offenders of civil and socio-economic right in FCT but has no power to compensate and prosecute violators of civil and socio-economic right in FCT.

Recommendations

- i. There is need for complete revamping of National Human Rights Commission to make it more effective and truly a watchdog of human right violations in the country.
- ii. National Human Rights Commission should be empowered financially to provide some first aid relief material to the affected victims of civil and socio-economic right abuses before taken any appropriate actions.

²⁸ Ibid, 2019

- iii. There is need to change in composition of commission by including members from civil society and activists as well as independent cadre of staff with appropriate experience to effectively address all grievances related to civil and social economic right abuses in FCT.
- iv. The recommendation of the National Human Rights Commission for the compensations of the victims of civil and socio-economic right abuses should be implemented.
- v. A special court should be established for the prosecution of violators of civil and socio-economic right abuses in FCT. Many laws in Nigeria are very old and archaic in nature by amending which government can bring more transparency to fight against civil and socio-economic right abuses and in order to improve and strengthen the human rights situation in FCT, state and non-state actors need to work in tandem.