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Welcome to Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung's Nigeria Weekly Press Review

The weekly press review seeks to explore and keep you informed on selected issues relating to politics, business and economy, insecurity, infrastructure and development, health related issues, new trends and matters bothering on COVID-19 and the situation in Nigeria.

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President Buhari Signs Petroleum Industry Bill into Law, Speaks of Legacy in Office, Former President Obasanjo Voices Concern on Nigeria's Situation, Atiku Supports Calls for Restructuring

In new reports, President Muhammadu Buhari, has signed the long-awaited oil and gas bill into law. The signing ceremony will be done on Wednesday 25, after the president leaves isolation in line with Covid-19 protocols. Under the new legislation, commercial and regulatory roles in the state owned Nigeria National Petroleum Commission (NNPC), would be separated. Some community leaders have revealed they were at last compensated for the oil resources in their regions while others said it fell short of expectation. AFP, [Yahoo News \(August 16th\)](#) reports.

Meanwhile, President Muhammadu Buhari said his presidency would tackle the issue of insecurity before exiting office in 2023. He spoke at the National Council on Security meeting held at the State House on Thursday 20. Seun Opejobi, [Daily Post News \(August 19th\)](#). Former President Olusegun Obasanjo had described the country's situation as "very bad but not irredeemable." He expressed concerns that the country was not where it ought to be. when he received the National chairman of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Uche Secondus Ernest Nwokolo, [The Nation News \(August 19th\)](#). however, Former Vice President, Atiku Abubakar, revealed that under President Buhari's presidency citizens are becoming "Biafrans". He lamented that Buhari's government had failed to heed the call for restructuring of the country. Seun Opejobi, [Daily Post News \(August 19th\)](#) writes.

Strike Action of Medical Doctors Continues, Twitter Ban to be Lifted by End of 2021, Caused 415 Million Dollar Loss to the Economy, Press Freedom in Grave Danger

The National Industrial Court (NIC) has adjourned a suit by the federal government against the National Association of Resident Doctors (NARD) who embarked on a strike action. The Minister of Labour and Employment, Chris Ngige, had taken the striking doctors to court over abdication of their responsibilities, and the NIC summoned the doctors to explain why the "no work, no pay" rule should not be applied against them. The resident doctors began an indefinite strike on August 2: Chukwuma Muanya, [The Guardian News \(August 17th\)](#) reports.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Information, Lai Mohammed, revealed that the government had reached agreements on seven of 10 of requests made to Twitter but was waiting for the company's response on final issues, including setting up a local office, paying tax locally and cooperating with the government to regulate content and harmful tweets. He expressed the federal government's willingness to put an end to the ban saying "we certainly want to put this behind us before the end of the year." Reuters, [Channels News Asia \(August 20th\)](#) reports.

A UK firm ToptoVPN, has released a current estimate to the effect of the Twitter shutdown to the country. The reports revealed that over 104 million internet users have been affected and has cost the country \$415-million as of 13 August. Comparing the economic effects with 18 other countries that have experienced some forms of internet shutdown in 2021, Nigeria is the second most affected, sitting right behind Myanmar, which has suffered over 5,660 days of internet shutdown with a \$2.5-billion economic cost. Olusegun Akinfenwa, [Daily Maverick News \(August 17th\)](#) reports.

Nkasi Wodu, in the [Council of Foreign Relations \(August 19th\)](#), outlines the implication of the federal governments ban on Twitter and the endorsement of Twitter's Indian rival, Koo. Nigeria is ranked 120 on the World Press Freedom Index, a drop of five spots from its ranking in 2020. Reporters Without Borders describes Nigeria as "one of West Africa's most dangerous and difficult countries for journalists," In a political environment where the government has shown its proclivity for dictatorial action, restrictions on free speech pose significant challenges for civil society.

Insecurity: 22 Citizens Killed in North Central Attacks, Authorities Impose Curfew in Plateau State, Six Tucano Fighter Jets to Arrive Nigeria, Minister of Defence Refutes Claims of Human Rights Abuses by Nigerian Troops, Boko Haram Defections Spike

A suspected Christian militia group in Plateau state has attacked a convoy carrying 90 Muslims citizens which left at least 22 people dead. However, a local representative has revealed that the death toll was higher, the Plateau State Police Command received a distress call that the suspects attacked five buses with Muslims. Simon Lalong, the Plateau State Governor condemned the attack saying that security has been beefed up

around the area. AFP, [Wio News \(August 18th\)](#) reports.

Meanwhile, President Muhammadu Buhari has described the attacks in plateau state as a "direct, brazen and wickedly motivated attack. Authorities on Sunday imposed a curfew in parts of the state following the killing of a convoy of 90 Muslims. While the governor said the attack on Saturday "should not be given any ethnic or religious coloration", the presidency described it as a "pre-arranged assault on a known target, location and religious persuasion of the travelers, not an opportunist ambush". AFP, [News 24 \(August 15th\)](#) reports.

The acting United States Ambassador to Nigeria, Kathleen Gibbon, on Thursday 19 assured citizens that the remaining fighter jets would arrive the country in September. A statement by the Special Assistant to the Minister of Defence on Media and Publicity, Mohammed Abdulkadri, quoted Gibbon to have given the assurance during a courtesy call on the minister in Abuja. Solomon Odeniyi, [Punch News \(August 19th\)](#) reports.

Responding to the claims of human rights abuses by troops of the country's military, the Defence Minister, Bashir Magashi, said the troops are guided by the laws of the country and rules of engagement. He assured the international community of President Muhammadu Buhari's respect for the domestic and international laws on human rights abuses. Magashi added that Nigerian military would not renege on its compliance to the rule of law and commitment to defending the national interest at all cost. [News Agency of Nigeria \(August 19th\)](#) reports.

More than one thousand Boko Haram terrorists have surrendered to the country's military in recent weeks. The Cameroonian authorities have also announced that at least eighty-two members of the group alongside their families had surrendered. John Campbell, [in the Council of Foreign Relations \(August 18th\)](#), says that the Boko Haram defections could be good for the northern part of the country, if it leads to a reduction of violence and thus far, there has been no sign that this has happened..

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