

## POETRY

### YESTERDAY

*Muhammad Auwal Ibrahim*

Yesterday,  
Seeds were not only planted  
But also bombs in public places  
Not plantations that would quench  
our thousand years of thirst  
But what destroyed our society

Yesterday,  
Big balls were not only hit  
but also big buildings with heavy vehicles,  
With the sole intention of penetrating into our palace,  
To reduce our number

Yesterday,  
videos were not only shot  
But also big bullets  
That hurt us in either our heads  
or bodies

Yesterday,  
Snakes were not only running on their stomachs,  
We also ran on our stomachs,  
Like snakes on the ground  
Inside the green bushes and grasses  
To save our dear lives  
From the dark devourers

### Author's Note.



**Muhammad Auwal Ibrahim** is a multiple award-winning journalist, and creative writer based in Gombe state, Nigeria. With a focus on investigative, data, and solutions journalism, he has won numerous national and international titles. In 2021, he won the prestigious West African Media Excellence Conference and Award (WAMECA); the International Center for Investigative Reporting (ICIR) Data Journalism Awards; Otufodunrin Journalists Awards, and Youths Digest Journalism Awards. He is also a recipient of the Alfred Opubor Next-Gen Journalism Awards 2022; the Center for Information and Technology and Development (CITAD) Accountability Reporting Competition 2022; and Budget Active Citizens Awards for Solutions Journalism 2023. He was a 2020 African Investigative Journalism Conference Fellow at Wits University; a 2022 ICIR-Open Contract Reporting Fellow; and a

2022 Imaginative Futures Working Group Fellow. He was a 2022 CITAD Grantee funded by the MacArthur Foundation. His works have appeared in African Arguments, Solutions Journalism Network, Premium Times, ICIR, Praxis Magazine, and AFAS Review among other publications.