

## **Human Rights, Faith-Based, US-Based Nigerian Diaspora Organizations Condemn Crackdown on Non Violent Protests in Nigeria and Call on U.S. & International Community to Support Demands for Police Reform**

We condemn the violent crackdown on non-violent protests in support of police reform and accountability in Nigeria. We call on the United States and international community to demand that President Muhammadu Buhari and the Governors of Nigeria's states, immediately stop the unwarranted killing of peaceful protesters across the country by the police and other security forces, publicly instruct the security forces agents to stop using excessive force against peaceful protesters across the country, and respond to the 5for5 demands of the protestors signed by the Nigerian Youth.

On 8 October, youth organized protests throughout Nigeria erupted after a video of an unarmed man in Delta State being shot by Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) officers surfaced. For years, SARS has committed systematic human rights violations with impunity through extra judicial executions, torture, arbitrary detentions, kidnappings and extortion. Efforts, dating-back to 2017 to end these abuses have met with no credible action by the Buhari administration.

#EndSARS protesters have remained peaceful but despite this have faced state-sanctioned violence. On 20 October 2020, the Nigerian army shot and killed unarmed protesters singing the national anthem and holding the Nigerian flag while over 120,000 people worldwide watched on a protester's Instagram live. This massacre, also known as the "Lekki Toll Gate Massacre" or "Black Tuesday," in addition to other incidents of peaceful protestors being killed and injured since the protests began, require the immediate action of the international community.

Nigerians in the diaspora (US, Europe, Canada and other locations) and civil society organizations, have joined the #EndSARS protests in their countries of residence to stand in solidarity with their home country and help amplify the protestors demand on a global scale.

The Nigerian government is obligated to uphold the rights to non-violent protest and ensure the safety of protestors in accordance with the International Bill of Rights, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended).

We call on the United States and the international community to :

1. Place targeted sanctions including asset freezes and travel bans on individual Nigerian officials and politicians involved in these human rights violations (SARS abuses, Lekki Toll Gate Massacre, killing and injuring protestors since 8 October)
2. Stop security assistance and military sales to the Nigerian police and security forces associated with the crackdown on #ENDSARS protests until the Buhari administration fully

complies with relevant laws and policy regarding ensuring accountability for human rights violations in regards to security cooperation, military aid, and arms sales.

3. The Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court should open an investigation into individual perpetrators of human rights violations arising out of SARS abuses, the Lekki Toll Gate Massacre, and the killing and injuring of protestors since October 8, 2020.

### *Signatories*

Accountability Lab

African Public Affairs Committee

Amnesty International USA

at the Forefront

Center for International Policy

Friends of the Congo

Heartland Alliance International

Oasis Network for Community Transformation

Office of Peacebuilding and Policy, Church of the Brethren

OMNIA Institute For Contextual Leadership

Oromo Advocacy Alliance

PartnersGlobal

Peace Direct

Priority Africa Network

The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society

Torture Abolition And Survivors Support Coalition International (TASSC)

Unity Stand Nigerian Diaspora USND

WANDA: Women Advancing Nutrition Dietetics and Agriculture

Watch Democracy Grow