

POLICE VIOLENCE IN NIGERIA

Your Excellency,

In its report *Time to end impunity: Torture and other human rights violations by the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS)* Amnesty International documented human rights violations by this specialized police unit. In October last year, Nigerians protested nationwide against police violence, extrajudicial executions, and extortion by the special police unit SARS. In this context, the Nigerian security forces killed at least 12 peaceful protesters on 20th October, between 18:45 and 21:00 in Lekki and Alausa, two districts of Lagos, while numerous other people were wounded. Security forces opened fire without warning on thousands of people who were peacefully advocating good governance as part of the #ENDSARS movement and protesting against police violence.

The disproportionate use of violence against peaceful protesters violates both the Nigerian Constitution of 1999 (as amended) as well as international standards that protect the right to life, dignity and peaceful assembly.

I therefore call on you to:

- undertake a timely, thorough, impartial, effective and transparent investigation of all cases of human-rights violations by the police, including the unlawful killings of protesters of the #ENDSARS movement, and to ensure that all those responsible for the killing and injuring protesters are to be brought to justice;
- immediately and unconditionally release all those protesters arrested in the context of the #ENDSARS movement;
- ensure access to justice, effective remedies and adequate compensation for victims and victims' families, and to guarantee that such acts will not be repeated;
- make a public statement on the implementation of the protesters' demands. These are: to end police violence and to ensure accountability for extrajudicial executions, rape, torture and extortion by the security forces.

Yours respectfully,

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Please return all petitions until the 31 December 2021 to Lisa Nöth, Freienwalder Strasse 34, 13359 Berlin.

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