

October 22, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

We write you as the United States coordinators of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), an organization that seeks to promote the interests of Biafrans in Nigeria and around the world. We wanted to thank you for your continued commitment to upholding human rights and rule of law around the world. The United States serves as a beacon of democratic values for peoples around the globe, and as Biafrans we wanted to express gratitude for your efforts.

As residents and citizens of the United States, we urgently request your vociferous condemnation of the Nigerian government's killing of innocent, peaceful civilians protesting the repressive actions of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad, also known as SARS. SARS has engaged in a systematic repression of citizens that has gone unchecked for decades, extorting, kidnapping, and killing untold numbers of Nigerians and Biafrans who bravely stood up and demanded that their government protect all civilians from persecution. While Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari recently committed to disband the force, we have heard these empty promises in the past: once the international community's focus on Nigeria wanes, government forces continue to arrest, pillage, and kill with impunity. Even after President Buhari's announcement, the *Wall Street Journal* and numerous other internationally-respected news outlets have reported that Nigerian soldiers continue to kill peaceful, anti-SARS protestors.¹

Earlier this year, the IPOB made a submission to Agnes Callamard, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions, for consideration in the final report of her 2019 visit to Nigeria.² This submission documented verified examples of Nigerian government forces arbitrarily killing, arresting, or otherwise persecuting thousands of Biafrans in recent years. While we expected the release of Special Rapporteur Callamard's final report earlier this year, it has not yet occurred, and we fear that the United Nations' inaction has emboldened Nigerian forces to continue their reign of terror unabated.

We are reminded of your April 2018 meeting with President Buhari, in which you demanded that the Nigerian government ensure that people of all faiths are protected from persecution or violence caused by the religion they practice. Our family members and loved ones in Biafra informed us that in the months following this meeting, they experienced a significant decline in persecution from governmental forces, demonstrating the overwhelming impact your status as leader of the free world has in holding bad actors accountable for their crimes.

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¹ [The Wall Street Journal: Nigerian Protesters Killed as Soldiers Open Fire in Lagos – October 20, 2020](#)

² [Indigenous People of Biafra: Human Rights Abuses In Nigeria: Indigenous People of Biafra Chronicle Injustices in Letter to United Nations – March 25, 2020](#)

We are once again asking for your voice. Now that the plight of ordinary Nigerians and Biafrans calling for peace and democracy has been recognized by the people around the world, it is essential that we capitalize on the momentum to promote lasting changes that protect all civilians. We respectfully request that you issue a public statement strongly condemning the Nigerian government for its refusal to hold itself accountable. Please commit to enforcing punitive measures against the Buhari regime unless urgent reforms are made. We also humbly ask that you direct the State Department to make a formal inquiry with the United Nations regarding the status of Special Rapporteur Callamard's report.

Biafrans have seen firsthand the incredible value of your actions, and we sincerely hope that you use your awesome power once again to protect our lives and our democratic rights.

Sincerely,

Dr. Clement Okoro
United States National Coordinator
Indigenous People of Biafra

Mazi Sylvester Njoku
Alabama Coordinator
Indigenous People of Biafra

Mazi Onyema Onozie
Florida Coordinator
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Indigenous People of Biafra

Mrs. Lillian Chime Ndu
Wisconsin Coordinator
Indigenous People of Biafra

CC: United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo

CC: United States Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom Sam Brownback

CC: National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien