

I am writing to express my grave concern on Journalist, Samuel Ogundipe, who is being detained at the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) headquarters, Guzape district Abuja. He was brought to court without a lawyer present and has been charged with 'criminal trespass' and 'theft of police document'. He was arrested on 14 August after honouring an invitation by the SARS unit of the Nigerian police to report to their office as part of an investigation into a news article Premium Times, the online newspaper he works for, published.

I respectfully urge the Nigerian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Samuel Ogundipe and to drop all charges against him.

I strongly call on the authorities to respect press freedom and the right of expression in Nigeria and to ensure journalists are protected from any threats and harassment for doing their job.

Sincerely yours,