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Dear Sir,

I write to express my concern for the injured Islamic Movement in Nigeria (IMN) protesters, currently in police custody and in need of urgent medical attention.

On 22 July, Nigeria Police arrested at least 18 members of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria (IMN) during a peaceful protest in Abuja to demand for the release of their leader Sheikh Ibraheem El Zakzaky. The protest turned violent when the Nigeria Police fired teargas and live ammunition to disperse the protesters. Some of the IMN members were arrested during the protest, while others were arrested at the University of Abuja Teaching hospital where they were receiving treatment for gunshot wounds sustained during the protest.

According to credible information received by Amnesty International, two of the injured protestors are reported to have died in custody between 22 and 23 July due to lack of medical treatment, while a third person died on 24 July. Prior to their death, they pleaded with the police to take them to the hospital, but the police ignored their pleas and instead mocked them for their religious beliefs and engaging in the protest.

The remaining 15 IMN members are currently in critical condition with various gunshot wounds to their legs, stomach, hips and some are unable to walk. Among those detained are two girls who are being held in the same cell. The IMN members have been denied access to urgent medical care as well as their lawyers and family members.

I urge you to ensure that the injured IMN protesters in custody are released immediately and granted immediate access to adequate medical care and to their families and lawyer. Also ensure they are protected from torture and other ill-treatment while in detention.

Yours sincerely,