

Muhammadu Buhari
Nigerian Presidential Complex
Aso Rock Presidential Villa
Federal Capital Territory
Abuja
Nigeria

Dear Sir,

I write to express my concern for journalists and human rights defenders Omoyele Sowore, Olawale Adebayo Bakare (Mandate) and Agba Jalingo, who are currently facing charges in Nigeria.

I am aware that Omoyele Sowore and Olawale Adebayo Bakare have been released on bail, while Agba Jalingo remains in detention in Calabar Prison. Omoyele Sowore and Olawale Adebayo Bakare are facing charges for planning a protest, tagged #RevolutionNow, to demand respect for human rights and the rule of law in Nigeria, which is considered by the government as an act of treason and a call for an undemocratic overthrow of government.

On 22 August, police officials arrested Agba Jalingo, a journalist with CrossRiverWatch news website, for publishing an article in which he demanded the Cross River State government be accountable for NGN500 million naira (1.4million United States Dollars equivalent) reportedly approved and released for the floating of the Cross River Microfinance Bank. Agba Jalingo spent 33 days in police custody without trial or access to his lawyer and family. He was thereafter charged with committing Acts of treason, treasonable felony, publishing false information and instigating terrorism. He is currently facing a secret trial at Calabar division of the Federal High court.

I believe that the charges against Omoyele Sowore, Olawale Adebayo Bakare and Agba Jalingo are attempts to silence them.

I urge you to ensure that Agba Jalingo is released immediately and unconditionally and that all charges against Omoyele Sowore, Olawale Adebayo Bakare and Agba Jalingo are dropped. I also urge you to ensure that Agba Jalingo is protected from torture and other ill-treatment while in detention.

Yours sincerely,