

24th July, 2020

The Inspector General of Police  
Nigeria Police Force  
Force Headquarters  
Louis Edet House  
Abuja



Dear Sir,

**PETITION AGAINST ABDUL AZIZ MALAMI FOR THE CONTRAVENTION OF SECTION 21 OF THE CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA ACT, 2007**

The above subject matter refers.

On the 10th July, 2020, the violation of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control directive on social distancing of not having more than the 20 persons in a gathering and the disregard of the currency notes was reported by Sahara Reporters<sup>1</sup> in the video of Abdul Aziz Malami's wedding ceremony. Son of Nigeria's Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami (SAN), seen in a video of the lavish ceremony dancing and communicating close to one another without wearing face masks while spraying wads of United States Dollars and Naira notes on the newly married couple.

Our petition is hinged on the provisions of Section 21 of the Central Bank Act, 2007 and it states as follows;

- (1) A person who tampers with a coin or note issued by the Bank is guilty of an offence and shall be liable on imprisonment for a term not less than six months or to a fine not less than N50,000 or to both such fine and imprisonment.
- (2) A coin or note shall be deemed to have been tampered with if the coin or note has been impaired, diminished or lightened otherwise than by fair wear and tear or has been defaced by stamping, engraving, mutilating, piercing, stapling, writing, tearing, soiling, squeezing or any other form of deliberate and willful abuse whether the coin or note has or has not been thereby diminished or lightened.

The Act goes on in Section 21 (3) that for avoidance of doubt and in addition to the Provisions of Section 21 (1 & 2), it also states as follows;

- (3) For the avoidance of doubt, spraying of, dancing or matching on the Naira or any note issued by the Bank during social occasions or otherwise howsoever shall constitute an abuse.

<sup>1</sup> <http://saharareporters.com/2020/07/10/nigeria%E2%80%99s-attorney-general-malami-buys-multi-million-naira-mansion-newly-married-son>

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and defacing of the Naira or such note and shall be punishable under sub-section (1) of this section

The Act also defines the words "Matching" and "Spraying" in Section 21 (5);

(i) "Matching" includes spreading scattering or littering of any surface with any Naira notes or coins and stepping thereon, regardless of the value, volume, occasion or intent.

(ii) "Spraying" includes adorning, decorating or spraying anything or any person or any part of any person or the person of another with Naira notes or coins or sprinkling or sticking of the Naira notes or coins in a similar manner regardless of the amount, occasion or the intent.

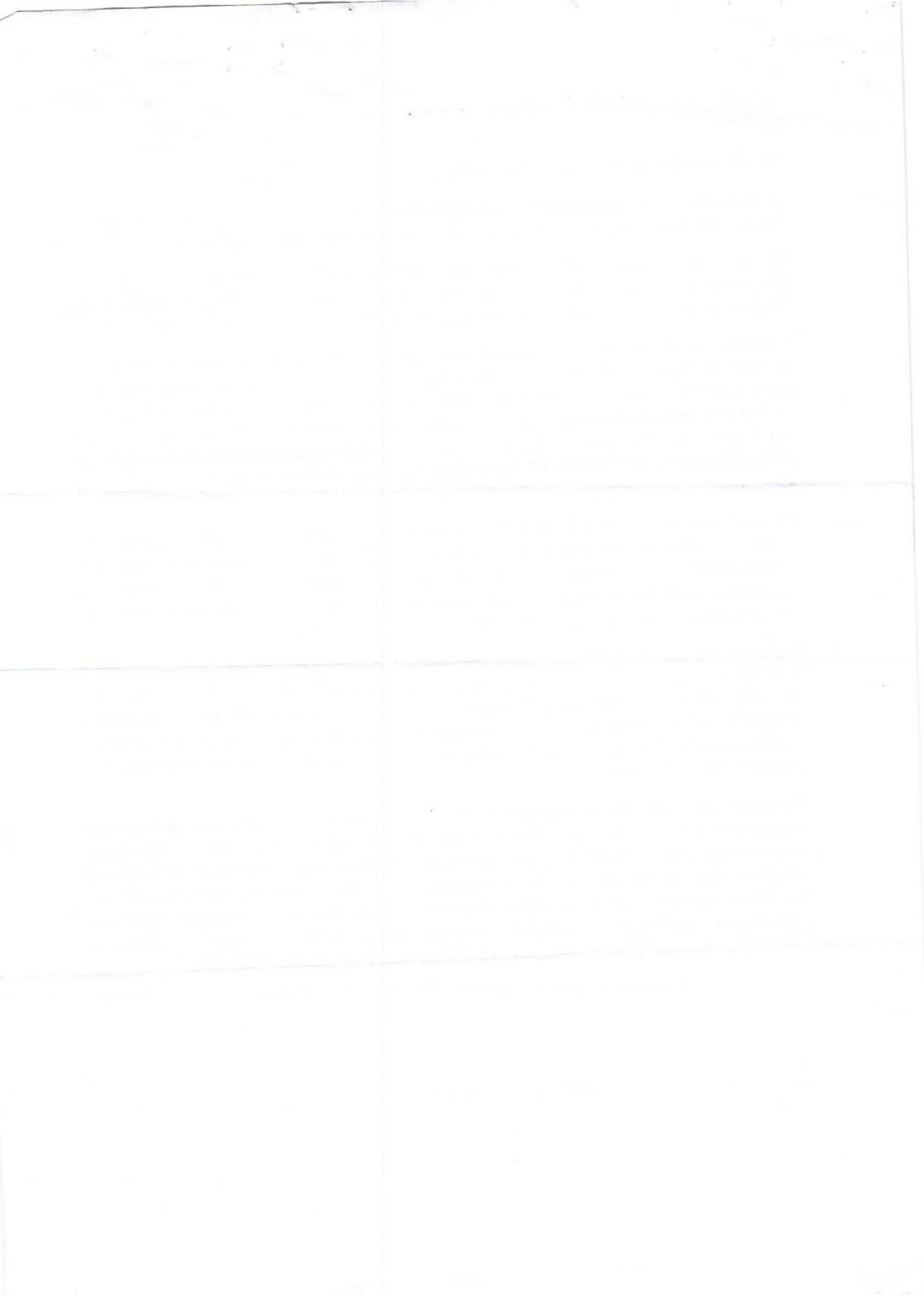
Critical review of the video that has gone viral over the social media, it goes to the root of irony as men into power who ought to lead by example are the ones found at the stem of disobeying and breaking the laws as the son of the minister of justice was present at the wedding where the law was completely disrespected. This irony is displayed in the report published by Sahara Reporters<sup>2</sup> on the 11th July, 2020 where it was alleged acknowledged by the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice that there was a Naira rain at his son's wedding ceremony.

We would like to reiterate and clarify that we are not pointing fingers and naming but we seek to draw the attention of the force to the above-relayed allegations. In essence, we write this petition with the aim of awakening the powers as encapsulated in the Police Act. The Police Act vests in the Nigeria Police Force with the following but not limited to; the protection of lives and properties, investigations of allegations to a logical conclusion.

Based on the above conveyed report, we believe this allegation of spraying the currency amounts to tampering with the currency which is founded in Section 21 of the Central Bank Act, 2007 which is an offence punishable under the same section. Therefore, we hereby demand for an immediate and urgent investigation of the said allegation of spraying of money in the video in line with the provisions of the law and with the view to visiting the perpetrators with the full weight of the law.

We are a non-governmental organization and non-partisan human rights and development league with the mandate to protect and promote universally recognized human rights, accountability and environmental justice in Nigeria and Africa, in accordance with international standards. Also, we are an organization relentless on seeing transparency and accountability and adherence to rule of law actualized. Owing to this backdrop, we hereby appeal that your office ensures that this matter is properly, effectively and painstakingly investigated with a view to setting an example in order to serve as a deterrent to similar acts in the future.

<sup>2</sup> <http://saharareporters.com/2020/07/11/nigerias-attorney-general-malami-confirms-naira-rain-sons-wedding-after-saharareport-irs>



Our demand is strongly anchored and founded on our patriotic mandate to promote and foster accountability, respect for institution and rule of law while ensuring transparency and participatory governance in the country.

We look forward to your usual prompt response and action.

While thanking you in advance of your anticipated response and action, accept our best regards.

Yours faithfully,



**Olanrewaju Suraju**  
Chairman

**CC : Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR**  
**The President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria**  
**Aso Villa**  
**Abuja**

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