

20<sup>th</sup> February, 2019

The Executive Secretary,  
National Human Rights Commission  
19, Aguiyi Ironsi Street,  
Maitama,  
Abuja

Dear Sir,

**DEMAND FOR JUSTICE FOR THE ABUJA VICTIMS OF MURDER AND HOMOSEXUALITY OF  
THE ABUJA SCHOOL OF THE DEAF, KUJE**

Human and Environmental Development Agenda (HEDA Resource Centre) is a non-governmental organization and non-partisan human rights and development league. It has the mandate to protect and promote universally recognized human rights, accountability and environmental justice in Nigeria and Africa, in accordance with international standards.

In line with our mandate, we write this petition to demand for the protection of the rights of the disabled students of Kuje School of the Deaf, Abuja. This call is founded on the report published by the Sunnewsonline on the 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2019<sup>1</sup>, wherein the story of a 6-year-old student of the Kuje School of the Deaf, Abuja was narrated by his grandmother Hajia Salamatu Abubakar Maina, who gave a comprehensive account of the ordeal that befell her grandson, Imran.

Summarily, it was captured in the report under reference by Imran's grandmother that Imran and other students were repeatedly sexually defiled by unknown men in the Kuje School of the Deaf, Abuja by having sexual intercourse with them through their anus, at night in an unknown place in the school. It was stated in the report by Imran's Grandmother that Imran watched the men slaughter other students, roast their flesh and after which the students are forced to eat the flesh of the slaughtered students. It was reported that Imran was severally hit on his head for vomiting after being forced to eat the roasted flesh.

It was conveyed in the report that Imran's grandmother after being informed by Imran communicated the ill happening to the deputy head teacher of the school, who guaranteeing them that the school would do their due diligence to get to the bottom of the case, that the family should not report the matter to the police so as not to sabotage the case. However it was reported that on the fateful day after discussing with the Deputy Head teacher that the men of their family instructed that they go back to the school and insist on the head teacher commencing immediate investigation of the matter; on getting there the head teacher informed them of the need to do

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sunnewsonline.com/kuje-school-of-horror/>



the case in cooperation with the Parents Teachers Association and he gave them the contact of the PTA Chairman who advised them to reach out to the Ministry of Education.

Several interventions were explored by Imran's family that includes taking the case to the United Nations Organization in charge of persons with disability where Imran was interviewed, the Federal Ministry of Education in the presence of the Minister and Permanent Secretary where they were assured that investigation would commence immediately and National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) where the deaf investigator also interviewed Imran and the official of NAPTIP also confirmed that she had heard that such things were happening in the school and that she had been trying to do her own findings.

The family alleges compromise by the Federal Ministry of Education and reported on Human Rights Radio because of the cold response received from the Federal Ministry of Education. NAPTIP is reported to have investigated the matter and found that there is an opening behind the school, where people gained entrance into the school. According to the report, the Executive Director of National Primary Healthcare Development Agency had assured that the agency would procure screening kits and the children will be screened for Hepatitis, HIV, Syphilis and other infections as well as pregnancy.

The act of men sexual assaulting minors, disable students and slaughtering students is not just against Nigeria Criminal law, but also international laws, treaties and agreements. This action constitutes a case of 'sexual assault of a minor, culpable homicide, homo-sexualism'. The following legal back ups give the above allegations criminal backing;

**Section 11 of the Child Right Act 2003** protects the child's right to dignity:

"Every child is entitled to respect for the dignity of his person, and accordingly, no child shall be-

- (a) subjected to physical, mental or emotional injury, abuse, neglect or maltreatment, including sexual abuse;

- (b) subjected to torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

- (c) subjected to attacks upon his honor or reputation; or

- (d) held in slavery or servitude, while in the care of a parent, legal guardian or school, authority or any other person or authority having the care of the child.

**Section 31 of the Child Right Act 2003 States inter alia:**

- (1) No person shall have sexual intercourse with a child.

- (2) A person who contravenes the provision of Subsection (1) of this section commits an offence of rape and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for life.

- (3) Where a person is charged with an offence under this section, it is immaterial that-

- (a) the offender believed the person to be of or above the age of eighteen years; or

- (b) the sexual intercourse was with the consent of the child.

Also, Section 32 states that:

- (1) A person who sexually abuses or sexually exploits a child in any manner not already mentioned under this Part of this Act commits an offence.

- (2) A person who commits an offence under subsection (1) of this section is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of fourteen years.

According to Child Right Act 2003, Section 1, In every action concerning a child, whether undertaken by an individual, public or private body, institutions or service, court of law, or administrative or legislative authority, the best interest of the child shall be the primary consideration.

From the above report, the best interest of the child was not considered paramount in the circumstance, the case was not treated as one in need of immediate attention by the school authorities and the Federal Ministry of Education

Article 4 and 5 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (Ratification and Enforcement) Act Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 1990 also buttress the rights to life and the dignity of human person.

The ground norm, 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (As Amended) states in Sections 33 and 34 respectively protect the rights to life and of the dignity of human person

As the National Institution with statutory mandate to protect human rights of citizens and mandate to redress the violations. According to your powers and functions as enshrined in the National Human Rights Commission (Amendment) Act 2010, Section 5 states as follows:

#### Functions of the Commission

The Commission shall—

- (a) *deal with all matters relating to the promotion and protection of human rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and other international and regional instruments on human rights to which Nigeria is party;*
- (b) *monitor and investigate all alleged cases of human rights violation in Nigeria and make appropriate recommendation to the President for the prosecution and such other actions as it may deem expedient in each circumstance;*
- (c) *assist victims of human rights violation and seek appropriate redress and remedies on their behalf*

You Commission is therefore charged to invoke its power under the same Act Section 6 (2): *The Commission shall have power to....*

*(b) summon and interrogate any person, body or authority to appear before it for the purpose of public inquiry aimed at the resolution of a complaint of human rights violation.*

The above relayed case is one deserving of immediate and urgent intervention and investigation as innocent citizens are allegedly reported to have lost their lives which is in breach of the right

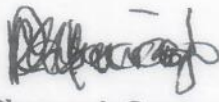


to life as entrenched in Section 33 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (As Amended). This intervention is with the view to averting the alleged hideous crime being committed in the school and bringing the perpetrators to justice. It has been alleged that the school and the Federal Ministry of Education have taken no step to investigate the alleged crimes.

In view of the above and the established powers and functions of your Commission, we hereby call on your office to urgently investigate this case and bring justice to the victims, families of these victims and ultimately to the perpetrators of these alleged crimes.

We thank you in anticipation of your prompt action on this demand

Yours faithfully,

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Olanrewaju Suraju  
Chairman