



# Human & Environmental Development Agenda

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2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020

The Ambassador  
The Embassy of the Republic of Korea  
Plot 10A&B, Layi Ajayi Bembe Street  
Parkview Estate  
Ikoyi  
Lagos

*Original copy  
received by me  
plus  
20/9/20*

Dear Sir,

## **Demand for An Urgent Action: Violation and Oppression of Human Rights in South Korea - Shincheonji Church of Jesus, religious denomination**

The above subject matter refers.

We write to you to raise concern over the reports of human rights infringement and violations in South Korea. We are a non-governmental and non-partisan human rights and development organization with the mandate to protect and promote universally recognized human rights, accountability, peace, development, and environmental justice in Nigeria, Africa, and globally. following international standards.

We appreciate the enormous responsibility and pressure on the government of South Korea to protect her citizens and halt the spread of the COVID19 virus. In this regard, we commend the efforts of the government and people in South Korea in flattening the curve from the first wave of the COVID19 infection. We affirm that it is the responsibility of both government and every citizen to act responsibly to take action to protect themselves, families, communities, and country from this deadly virus. We equally affirm it is the responsibility of the government to maintain law and order and issue necessary instructions and safety guidelines to abate the COVID19 spread in South Korea.

However, we are concerned about reports of the violation of fundamental rights of the citizens of the Republic of South Korea, one of the leading democracies in the world. We are particularly alarmed at the report and complaint of highhandedness and the use of intimidation and force against members of the Shincheonji Church of Jesus. As you are aware, the Shincheonji Church of Jesus is a religious denomination and minority based in South Korea. We are duly informed of reports of over 6,000 human rights violations including physical and mental abuse, and which has led to the death of two members of that church. Equally alarming is the alleged incidence of deprogramming (forced conversion of religion) of the members of the Shincheonji Church of Jesus in clear violation of fundamental rights to freedom of religion as enshrined in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We wish to remind the government of South Korea through your Excellency, the ambassador that your country ratified on the 10<sup>th</sup> April 1990 the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and thus has the obligation to protect and promote all internationally recognized human rights especially those of groups considered to be vulnerable or a minority such as the Shincheonji Church of Jesus.

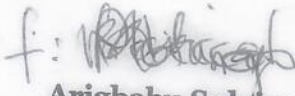
We, therefore, support, commend, and endorse the efforts and campaign of Heavenly Culture, World Peace, Restoration of Light (HWPL), a peace-seeking organization based in South Korea towards holding agencies of government accountable for the protection of human rights. Thus, we call on the government of South Korea through your Excellency to immediately take action to stop every violation and abuse of the rights of every citizen and particularly, members of the Shincheonji Church of Jesus. We also call on the government

to set up an independent body to inquire into the cases of the 6000 human rights violation and 2 deaths while ensuring that those who are found wanting in the discharge of their duties are brought to justice.

While assuring your Excellency and the government of South Korea of our highest esteem, please kindly note that we shall be mobilizing other human rights organizations across the world to call on the United Nations General Assembly to demand a stop to the violation of human rights in South Korea.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

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**Arigbabu Sulaimon**  
Executive Secretary