

UA 89/21

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**NIGERIA
ACTIVISTS JAILED FOR ANTI-PRESIDENT T-SHIRTS**

Activists **Larry Emmanuel, Anene Victor Udoka, Samuel Gabriel, Henry Nwodo, and Ben Mannaseh** are being arbitrarily detained in connection to their peaceful activism. On 4 July, they attended a church service at the Dunamis International Gospel Center in Abuja, the Nigerian capital, when they were arrested and beaten by the Center's security unit for wearing #BuhariMustGo T-shirts. In detention, they have been denied access to their lawyers and family and are at risk of torture and other ill-treatment. Nigerian authorities must immediately and unconditionally release them, in accordance with a court order.

Please write to the Attorney General and Minister of Justice asking him to:

- immediately and unconditionally release Larry Emmanuel, Anene Victor Udoka, Samuel Gabriel, Henry Nwodo, and Ben Mannaseh as ordered by the court and drop the baseless charges against Emmanuel Larry and Anene Victor Udoka.
- End the arbitrary detention and ongoing trial of these five activists, who are being held simply for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. Freedom of expression is a human right and no one should ever be detained solely for expressing dissenting opinions.
- Ensure they are protected from torture and other ill-treatment

Write to:

Attorney General and Minister for Justice
Abubakar Malami (SAN)
Federal Secretariat Complex
10th Floor, Shehu Shagari Way
PMB 192, Abuja, Nigeria
Email: info@justice.gov.ng
Salutation: Dear Attorney General

And copy:

His Excellency Adeyinka Olatokunbo Asekun
High Commission for the Federal Republic of Nigeria

295 Metcalfe Street

Ottawa, ON K2P 1R9

Tel: (613) 236-0521,2,3/236-0521 Ext 240 (24h)

Fax: (613) 236-0529

Email: chancery@nigeriahcottawa.ca

Additional Information

The right to freedom of expression has come under severe attack in Nigeria. Young people have activated the power of peaceful protests to demand justice for police abuses, extortion, and extra-judicial executions while the authorities continue to repress them. Human rights defenders, lawyers and civil society organizations are now left with few alternative channels to demand accountability from the government.

Those who attempt to exercise their right to peacefully protest on the streets are being repressed, and many have faced arbitrary detention, torture, and trumped-up charges.

The right to peaceful assembly is protected under both the Nigerian Constitution of 1999 (as amended), and human rights treaties to which Nigeria is a state party to, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.