



The Africa House - Sacramento  
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**October 30, 2020**

### **Africa House – Sacramento Condemns the violence against youth protesters in Nigeria**

The recent events in Nigeria where a largely unarmed youth protesters were brutally shot and killed with life bullets has shocked conscience and sensibilities of the world. In the past 3 years in Nigeria, there have been numerous complaints and public outcry over brutality and extortion carried out by a special police unit, 'SARS', often against the youths, but the complaints remain unaddressed. We also express our deep concern about the destruction of property by any protester, as detrimental to the cause and demand of the protest.

Recognizing that the Nigerian youth feel disenfranchised, unheard, displeased, and that dividends of democracy have been denied them, they have the legitimate cause to organize for change, and to do so peacefully. Consequently, we at Africa House – Sacramento, in support of positive humanity and justice:

- Forthrightly condemn the use of any form of violence against unarmed civilians who are exercising their constitutional protected rights of free speech and assembly.
  
- Call on the Nigeria government to exercise maximum restraint in response to the peaceful protesters and effective implementation of her responses to the demands of the protesters.
  
- Call upon the lovers of peace, progress , and civility everywhere, to petition the Nigerian government to desist from excessive use of force, negotiate in good faith with the protesters regarding their five basic demands: 1) Immediate release of all arrested peaceful protesters; 2) Justice for all deceased victims of police brutality and appropriate compensation for their families; 3) Setting up an independent body to oversee the investigation & prosecution of all reports of police misconduct; 4) In line with the new Police Act, psychological evaluation & retraining (to be confirmed by an independent body) of all disbanded SARS officers before they can be redeployed; 5) Increase police salary so that they are adequately compensated for protecting lives and livelihoods.

We call on the Nigeria youth and protesters to remain peaceful and nonviolent in their quest for peace and justice. Violence begets more violence!