

# URGENT ACTION

## ACTIVISTS JAILED FOR PEACEFUL PROTEST RELEASED

On 18 June, activists Larry Emmanuel and Victor Anene Udoka, who were unlawfully detained in Nigeria, were released on bail after spending 72 days in detention. They were tortured by unidentified men on 5 April while peacefully protesting against corruption and the poor human rights situation in Nigeria and distributing posters that were perceived to be critical of President Muhammadu Buhari. A few days later, they were turned over to the police and were subsequently transferred to the Nigeria Correctional Centre, located in Kogi State, in north central Nigeria.

**NO FURTHER ACTION IS REQUESTED THROUGH THIS URGENT ACTION. MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO SENT APPEALS.**

On 5 April, activists **Larry Emmanuel** and **Victor Anene Udoka** were beaten by unidentified men for engaging in a peaceful protest, holding placards and distributing posters said to be anti-President Muhammadu Buhari in Lokoja, the capital city of Kogi State, north central Nigeria. On 6 April, they were arraigned before a magistrate and are currently facing trumped-up charges, of 'felony' for Victor Anene Udoka and 'disturbance of public peace' for Larry Emmanuel. Their next trial date is scheduled for 1 July 2021.

Individuals who exercise their right to freedom of expression in Nigeria are facing harassment, intimidation, arbitrary arrests and trumped-up charges. The misuse of the criminal justice enables these violations. And lack of accountability for violations, growing impunity and a weak criminal justice system imply that suspected perpetrators are not brought to justice. In most cases individuals who suffer abuses never get justice.

Amnesty International believes the charges against Larry Emmanuel and Victor Anene Udoka have been fabricated to undermine the peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of assembly and expression. Huge support and solidarity from Amnesty International activists and supporters encouraged Larry Emmanuel and Victor Anene Udoka and made them feel that they were not forgotten. Campaigning and advocacy through the urgent action created visibility for their case in a way that the authorities could no longer keep them in detention. Through alternative channels, Amnesty International will continue its campaign to ensure that the criminal charges against the activists are dropped.

"One thing is certain, Amnesty International played a great role in calling for our release. We appreciate all that Amnesty International activists did for us. Thank you."- Larry Emmanuel and Victor Anene Udoka.

**NAME AND PRONOUN: Larry Emmanuel, Victor Anene Udoka (both he/him/his)**  
**THIS IS THE SECOND AND FINAL OUTPUT FOR UA 43/21**

**LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr44/3996/2021/en/>**

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