

# URGENT ACTION

## MAN FEARED DISAPPEARED AFTER SENDING TWEETS

**Yusuf Siyaka Onimisi has been missing since 30 March, when he tweeted photos of an alleged attempted jail break-in at the State Security Service in Abuja, Nigeria. Twenty-one detainees died during the incident. If he is in detention Yusuf is at risk of extra-judicial execution.**

Before 9am on Sunday, 30 March, gunshots were heard outside the State Security Service (SSS) headquarters, next to the President's house in Nigeria's capital Abuja. **Yusuf Siyaka Onimisi**, an electrical engineer who worked nearby, tweeted photos of Nigerian security forces "taking cover from the invaders". Between 8am and midday Yusuf tweeted six photos of Nigerian security forces, including one where "one of the attackers is caught and shot." He has not been heard from since.

The President's spokesperson reported that detainees held at the SSS headquarters had attempted to escape. Twenty-one detainees, suspected to be Boko Haram members, were reportedly killed during the escape attempt. While the SSS has launched an investigation into the incident, the government is yet to give an adequate public account of what happened. Amnesty International has serious concerns about the security services' treatment of suspected Boko Haram members in its custody.

Yusuf Siyaka Onimisi's whereabouts are still unknown but witnesses reported that he was arrested, raising fears the authorities have subjected him to a forced disappearance, putting him at increased risk of torture or death. The authorities have neither confirmed nor denied whether Yusuf is in their custody. The head of the National Human Rights Commission has said that the Commission is investigating his disappearance. A campaign on Twitter has been calling for Yusuf's release, using the hashtag 'FreeCiaxon' (Ciaxon is Yusuf's twitter name).

### **Please write immediately in English or your own language:**

- Write to the State Security Service asking them to confirm whether Yusuf Siyaka Onimisi is in their custody, calling for him to be immediately released or brought before a court, and to make public the results of their investigation into the events of 30 March;
- Send a tweet to the President's spokesman Reuben Abati "@abati1990 Is the SSS holding Yusuf Onimisi @ciaxon? #FreeCiaxon".

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 23 MAY 2014 TO:**

#### Director General

Ita Ekpeyong  
State Security Service  
Nigerian Presidential Complex,  
Aso Rock Presidential Villa  
Federal Capital Territory  
Abuja, Nigeria  
**Salutation: Director General**

#### Attorney General

Mohammed Bello Adoke, SAN  
New Federal Secretariat Complex  
5th Floor, Shehu Shagari Way  
PMB 192 Garki  
Maitama, Abuja  
Nigeria  
Email: info@fmj.gov.ng  
**Salutation: Honourable Minister**

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:**

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Yufuf Siyaka Onimisi, 32, is the eldest brother of five. He studied for a BSc in Electrical Engineering and graduated with an upper second class degree. He worked at the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN). He had recently taken up a temporary contract to the sub-station by the President's villa at Aso Rock, Abuja.

His brother, a student in Kano State, told Amnesty International "He has been arrested for 11 days without any information being given to the family. If the government treats people like this, who are the terrorists? Who is the threat? The family has been kept in darkness. If you are holding him or if there is to be a sentence of death, then tell the family."

Name: Yusuf Siyaka Onimisi

Gender m/f: m

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