

URGENT ACTION

NO JUSTICE FOR KILLING OF #ENDSARS PROTESTORS

The Nigerian authorities have failed to bring to justice those suspected to be responsible for the brutal crackdown by security forces on peaceful #EndSARS protesters at Lekki toll gate and Alausa in Lagos, Nigeria in October 2020, which killed at least 12 people. The authorities deny opening fire on protesters and have attempted to cover up the violence. The authorities must bring suspected perpetrators to justice and prioritize genuine police reform.

NO FURTHER ACTION IS REQUESTED. MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO SENT APPEALS.

The Nigerian government issued a directive to all the states to set up judicial panels of inquiry to investigate complaints against SARS. On 19 October 2020, the panel was inaugurated in Lagos state to investigate violations by SARS. However, government officials and the military continue to deny that anybody was killed during the protests while restating their resolve to punish leaders of the #EndSARS movement against police violence.

The Nigerian Army has disbanded its legal team for the Lagos State Judicial Panel, effectively pulling out of the investigative hearing as more evidence resurfaces confirming that Nigerian soldiers shot at peaceful protesters in October 2020. Earlier, the Nigerian Army had reluctantly admitted being at the scene of the Lekki shootings after initial denials. Still, it denied opening fire on the protesters, many of whom sat on the floor and were singing the national anthem. The army however claims that officers were sent out to enforce a curfew that was imposed by the Lagos State Government but did not open fire on peaceful protesters.

On 23 January 2021, the Nigerian Army – for the third time- failed to honour the summons issued to its officers by the Judicial Panel to appear before it. The Nigerian Army have also failed to present the officers involved in the shooting of the protesters.

Instead of bringing suspected perpetrators to justice and prioritizing genuine police reforms, Nigerian authorities have been abusing their powers by subjecting those who supported the protests to intimidation, harassment and smear campaigns. Amnesty International and human rights activists in Nigeria will continue to call for justice and accountability through campaign actions.

NAME: EndSARS protesters

THIS IS THE SECOND AND FINAL OUTPUT FOR UA 157/20

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr44/3254/2020/en/>

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