

Call to Action!

Nigerian Protesters Face Death Penalty

The left and trade-union movement must take action in defense of Nigerian activists. Nearly 2,500 people were arrested in August for participating in #EndBadGovernance protests against the starvation policies of the Bola Tinubu government. More than 40 were shot dead by security forces, and many of those arrested still languish in jail. Ominously, eleven face the death penalty on trumped-up treason charges. Their trial is set to start November 8 [new trial date]. *Drop the charges now! Release all arrested protesters!*

Protesters Facing Treason Charges

Inspired by the youthful uprising in Kenya in July, the protesters in Nigeria demanded an end to devastating economic austerity. To pay off debt imposed by the World Bank, IMF and African Development Bank, the Nigerian government last year abolished fuel subsidies and devalued the currency, leading to a dramatic spike in the cost of food, transportation and other necessities. The subsidies were a lifeline for many Nigerians in a country with almost no public transportation infrastructure. Coupled with soaring inflation, the austerity measures have pushed many more millions into starvation.

The Tinubu regime's brutal repression targeted protest leaders with the most draconian penalties. Socialist activists from the Youth Rights Campaign and the Solidarity Network for Workers' Rights are among those now facing the death penalty. Tortured in jail, some were released on harsh bail conditions.

Showing that this crackdown is aimed at the entire working-class movement, the government detained Nigeria Labour Congress president Joe Ajaero as he

was on his way to attend the September Trades Union Congress in Britain. The Tinubu regime has also outrageously charged Andrew Wynne (also known as Drew Povey), who for years has run a pro-labor bookshop located in the headquarters of the NLC, with seeking to overthrow the government. While Wynne was not in the country at the time, police raided the bookshop and arrested his assistant Adeyemi Abayomi, one of those facing a possible death sentence.



Take it back Movement

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Left to right: Opaluwa Eleajo Simeon (National Union of Electricity Employees regional officer), Michael Lenin Adaramoye (National Coordinator of Youth Rights Campaign), Mosiu Sadiq, Daniel Akande (Solidarity Network for Workers' Rights). Also facing treason charges: Adeyemi Abayomi, Suleiman Yakubu, Angel Innocent, Buhari Lawal, Bashir Bello, Nurudeen Khamis, Abduldalam Zubair.

ACT NOW!

1. Publicize the case far and wide on social media, union newsletters and newspapers. Break the blackout of news about the repression.
2. Get your union to protest this outrage. Letters such as the one by ILWU Local 10 (see reverse) are a good start.
3. Donate to the PDC.
4. Organize demonstrations and protests around the world. Contact the PDC to coordinate our efforts at partisandefense@earthlink.net.



International Longshore and Warehouse Union

Local 10

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PRESIDENT, **Trent Willis**

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Frank J. Gaskin

SECRETARY TREASURER

August 19, 2024

Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
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Dear Sir or Madam:

On August 7, government security forces staged a nighttime raid ransacking the headquarters of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), seizing printed materials and other documents. The International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10, which represents longshoremen working in the San Francisco Bay Area, protests in the strongest terms this attack against our fellow trade-unionists. We demand that all the seized materials be returned, and that there be no further reprisals against the NLC.

This raid came just hours after the NLC held a meeting critical of your government's repression against students and others who have been protesting over the last two weeks against the austerity measures imposed by your government. Scores of protesters have been killed. Hundreds more, including prominent protest leaders, have been arrested and many are still in jail. These include protest leaders such as Adaramoye Michael ("Michael Lenin"), national coordinator of the Youth Rights Campaign, Mosiu Sodiq, Elejo Opaluwa and Babatunde Oluajo ("OSB Sankara"). According to the latest reports, Michael, Sodiq and Elejo remain in custody. The NLC rightly condemned your attempt to criminalize protest.

We have active members of our union who were born in Nigeria and who maintain ties with their homeland. The international labor movement is watching. We demand an end to the repression and freedom for all the detainees! Hands off the NLC!

Sincerely,

Trent Willis
President
ILWU Local 10

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