

NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL LITIGATION COMMITTEE

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT: Plot 1101, Muhammed Buhari Way, Cadastral Zone AOO Central Business District, Abuja.+234 8033136059, +234 7063485015 Email: ama.etuwewe@nigerianbar.ng amaetulegal@yahoo.com iabubakaraliyu@gmail.com

28th of July, 2025

The Inspector General, Nigeria Police Force, Louis Edet House, Abuja,

Dear Sir.



RE: UNLAWFUL ASSAULT AND VIOLATION OF THE RIGHTS OF OLAWOORE AKOLADE, ESQ BY THE OFFICER INCAHRGE OF CYBER CRIME OFFICE, ZONE 7 OF THE NIGERIA POLICE ZONAL COMMAND ABUJA: DEMAND FOR IMMIDIATE DISCIPLINERY ACTIONS AGAINST THE OFFICER AND OTHER ACTING IN COHORT WITH HIM

The above subject matter refers;

We are members of the National Litigation Committee set up by the President of the Nigerian Bar Association with our core mandate, the protection of the rights of the members of the Bar in the discharge of their constitutional functions, including the representation of Clients under investigation by any of the security agencies.

The right of representation by lawyers enjoys a prominent place in the United Nations Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers and in particular Article 16 and 17, which reads:

- 16. Governments shall ensure that lawyers (a) are able to perform all of their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference;
- (b) are able to travel and to consult with their clients freely both within their own country and abroad; and
- (c) shall not suffer, or be threatened with, prosecution or administrative, economic or other sanctions for any action taken in accordance with recognized professional duties, standards and ethics.

17. Where the security of lawyers is threatened as a result of discharging their functions, they shall be adequately safeguarded by the authorities.

However, on Wednesday the 23rd of July 2025, a legal practitioner, **OLAWOORE AKOLADE**, called to the Bar in 2021 who is resident and practicing in the Federal Capital Territory, informed the Committee of the following events;

- That his Firm, MESSR OLAWOORE AKOLADE & Co was engaged to represent one Peter Pius who was undergoing investigation at the Cyber Crime Office of the Zone 7, Zonal Command of the Nigeria Police Force, located at Zone 3, Abuja.
- 2. That his client Mr. Peter Pius called him on phone on Friday, the 18th of July, 2025 and informed him that he was arrested alongside others in his apartment at Saburi Jigawa, Abuja by Policemen from Zone 7, Zonal Command of the Nigeria Police and their phones and other items seized by the Police officers.
- 3. That the following day which was on Saturday the 19th of July 2025, he called the client and the client informed him that he had been released and that he was arrested on the suspicion of engaging in cybercrime and in the process the police seized all their phones and other gadgets from them.
- 4. That the officers also seized his car, a Mercedes Benz, C Class which they took to the Police Station alongside other items and that the others arrested during the raid by the Police are Charles Miracle, Udoka Precious, Mustapha Idris and Rashidat Jibril.
- 5. That the Police threatened them and made video of them with the intend to intimidate and harass them into confessing to the alleged crime and thereafter requested that they pay money for them to be allowed to regain their freedom.
- 6. That the Police fraudulently took them to a POS vendor where they first withdrew the sum of (N 2,000,000.00) Two Million Naira from his Client account. The POS vendor is A.A. Excellent center located around Wuse Zone 4. That Policemen fraudulently requested for additional (N 3,000,000.00) Three Million Naira and his client had to source for the money from someone who send the money to him

and it was withdrawn from the same POS vendor. Find attached the evidence of withdrawals.

- 7. That on the 23rd of July 2025, our colleague received a call from his call client and he was informed yet again that the Police are requested for an *additional (N 1,500,000.00)* One Million Five Hundred Thousand Naira and our colleague immediately requested that they hold on and that he will be at the Station to see the officer in charge of the case.
- That when our colleague arrived at the place with his client, he went to the office
 of the officer in charge to make enquiries after registering at the gate of the police
 facility.
- 9. That while at the front of the office, he met an officer he knew and was discussing about the case with him when the officer in charge interjected and asked if he was the lawyer in the matter to which our client responded in the affirmative.
- 10. That as soon as he answered yes, the officer in a bid to intimidate our colleague started asking him his years at the Bar and whether he is a lawyer properly called to the Bar and our colleague responded that he has no right to ask him about his age at the Bar or insinuate that he is a fake lawyer.
- 11. That officer immediately descended on our colleague with several slaps and when our colleague tried to use his phone to record the incident, he and others descended on him and gave him the beating of his life and it took the intervention of officer gentleman for the Officer in Charge and others stop their assault.
- 12. That our colleague's phone was seized and he was detained on the instructions of the officer in charge of the Cyber crime who boasted that nobody can do anything to him.
- 13. That our colleague and other colleagues who later joined him at the Police Station were all taking before the Assistant Commissioner of Police, Criminal Investigation Department, one DCP Yusuf A. Abdul who intervened in the matter and our

colleague had to play along with the Police so as not to suffer further injustice before they all were able to leave the station.

- 14. We condemn unequivocally the actions of your men as they are clearly in breach of the Fundamental Rights of our colleague which the Police as an institution is constitutionally and statutorily required to protect.
- 15. The actions of this rascal masquerading as police officer has further painted the Police in a negative light at the time the Police as an institution is struggling to gain public confidence and acceptance.
- 16. That they could use their office to extort citizens in the way and manner they did shows the level of decay we are dealing with in the Police.
- 17.It is also unacceptable that rather than see legal practitioners as partners in the business of law enforcement, bag eggs in the Police now treat lawyers worse than they would allege offenders due to their lack of basic understanding of Policing and the position of our extant laws on criminal administration and corruption. This has to stop!
- 18. We consequently and respectfully urge you to immediately Carry out a prompt, thorough, impartial and transparent investigation into the events of the 23rd of July, 2025 to identify all those responsible so as appropriate disciplinary measures, including, but not limited to their outright dismissal be taken against these erring Police officers.
- 19. We officially will communicate the Police Service Commission and other institution with oversight functions over the Police and the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related Offences Commission in addition to seeking both criminal and civil redress in Court to ensure this does not happen again.
- 20.Sir, our colleague is ready and willing to cooperate and provide additional information when and where required.

Thank you in anticipation of your prompt response

Yours faithfully

Ama Etuwewe, SAN

Chairman

Isah Abubakar Aliyu Secretary

CC:

- 1. The Chairman,
 Police Service Commission
 Corporate Headquarters
 Plot. 64, Cadastral Zone B16,
 Sector Center B,
 Jabi, Abuja
- 2. The Attorney General of the Federation Federal Ministry of Justice Abuja
- 3. The Assistant Inspector General of Police AIG Zone 7, Abuja
- 4. The Assistant Commissioner of Police Criminal Investigation Department AIG Zone 7, Abuja.
- The Officer in Charge Cybercrime Unit, AIG Zone 7, Abuja