



# **LAW OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA**

## **LOAN SECRETARIAT**

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OUR REF.:.....

YOUR REF.:.....

DATE: 6th August, 2025

### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **UNLAWFUL INVITATION, ARREST AND DETENTION OF LAW OFFICERS -UNEQUIVOCAL NATIONAL CONDEMNATION AND DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE ACCOUNTABILITY**

The Law Officers Association of Nigeria (LOAN), the umbrella body of all law officers in the Ministries of Justice across the Federation, expresses its absolute indignation and the strongest possible condemnation of the recent brazen, unlawful, and unconstitutional conduct of the Nigerian Police Force, through its Inspector General of Police Monitoring Unit, Abuja.

The illegal invitation, arrest, and detention of Mrs. Nneka Umeozulu (Director of Public Prosecution, Anambra State), Mr. Fabian Okeke (Assistant Chief State Counsel), and Mrs. Chinelo Akorah (Senior State Counsel) constitute a direct assault on the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), a shameful attack on the independence and integrity of the legal profession, and a reckless abuse of State power.

#### **WE STATE EMPHATICALLY THAT:**

**1. THE OFFICE AND POWERS OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF ANY STATE, AS GUARANTEED UNDER SECTION 211 OF THE CONSTITUTION, ARE INVOLABLE AND CANNOT BE SUBJECTED TO ANY UNLAWFUL INTERFERENCE, HARASSMENT, OR INTIMIDATION BY ANY SECURITY AGENCY, INCLUDING THE NIGERIAN POLICE FORCE.**

**2. THE UNLAWFUL DETENTION OF THESE SENIOR LAW OFFICERS ON MONDAY, 4TH AUGUST 2025, UNDER THE PRETEXT OF INVESTIGATING THEIR LEGAL ADVICE, IS AN INTOLERABLE BREACH OF LEGAL PRIVILEGE, PROFESSIONAL INDEPENDENCE, AND DUE PROCESS. THIS ACT CONSTITUTES A CRIMINAL ABUSE OF OFFICE AND A GROSS VIOLATION OF THEIR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS UNDER THE CONSTITUTION.**

**3. THE NIGERIAN POLICE FORCE, ACTING THROUGH THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE MONITORING UNIT, EXCEEDED ITS CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY MANDATE, THEREBY ARROGATING TO ITSELF SUPERVISORY POWERS IT DOES NOT POSSESS OVER LAW OFFICERS ACTING IN THEIR OFFICIAL CAPACITY. THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE, ILLEGAL, AND MUST NOT BE PERMITTED TO RECUR.**

**Accordingly, the National Headquarters of the Law Officers Association of Nigeria demands:**

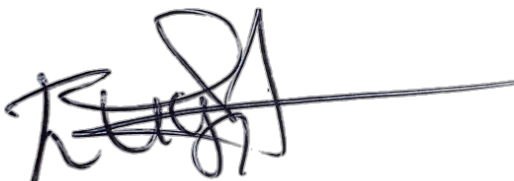
- 1. AN IMMEDIATE AND UNRESERVED PUBLIC APOLOGY FROM THE NIGERIAN POLICE FORCE TO THE AFFECTED OFFICERS, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF ANAMBRA STATE, AND THE ENTIRE LEGAL COMMUNITY.**
- 2. IMMEDIATE DISCIPLINARY AND CRIMINAL PROSECUTION OF ALL OFFICERS AND COMMANDERS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS UNLAWFUL AND DISGRACEFUL ACT.**
- 3. AN UNEQUIVOCAL PUBLIC ASSURANCE FROM THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE THAT THE NIGERIAN POLICE FORCE WILL DESIST FROM ANY FURTHER UNLAWFUL INTERFERENCE WITH OR HARASSMENT OF LAW OFFICERS NATIONWIDE.**
- 4. URGENT LEGISLATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES TO DISMANTLE ANY UNCONSTITUTIONAL UNITS OR ROGUE SQUADS WITHIN THE NIGERIAN POLICE FORCE THAT HAVE ARROGATED TO THEMSELVES POWERS TO INTIMIDATE LAW OFFICERS OR INTERFERE WITH THE JUDICIAL PROCESS.**

We stand in full solidarity with the Anambra State Ministry of Justice and commend the courageous stance taken by the Nigerian Bar Association, Professor Chidi Odinkalu, and other stakeholders who have risen in defence of constitutional governance and the rule of law.

Let it be expressly stated for the record: the Law Officers Association of Nigeria will employ every legal, judicial, institutional, and advocacy mechanism available under the Constitution to resist and punish any further assault on the legal profession. We shall not cede an inch of ground to executive impunity or lawlessness.

We hereby place all institutions, including the Presidency, the National Assembly, the Nigerian Judiciary, and the Nigeria Police Council, on notice of this egregious constitutional violation and demand urgent intervention to safeguard the sanctity of the rule of law.

**THE ERA OF IMPUNITY MUST END. THE LEGAL PROFESSION WILL NOT BE INTIMIDATED.**



**COMRADE ERNEST U. EDMONYI**  
**NATIONAL PRESIDENT, LOAN**



**COMRADE ADESOJI A. A.**  
**SECRETARY-GENERAL, LOAN**