



The Hon James Duddridge MP
Minister of State for Africa
Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office

1st December 2020

Dear Minister,

As chairs of the APPGs for Nigeria and Africa respectively, we recently participated in a hearing about the #EndSARS protests in Nigeria, organised by our APPGs along with the Royal African Society and the Nigerian Leadership Initiative. This raised a number of important points of British Government policy in relation to Nigeria, some of these were addressed at the Westminster Hall debate regarding the sanctions petition on the 23rd November, but we would be grateful for your further response on the following issues.

Firstly, concern was expressed that British Government support for the Nigerian Police Force, in its various forms, does not seem to be adequately protected with human rights conditionality to prevent its possible abuse, as we have seen in the fatal action against EndSARS protestors in Lagos. What steps is the FCDO taking to rectify this problem and monitor the situation in Nigeria? What measures have been put in place to prevent this from happening again elsewhere?

Secondly, it was felt that HMG needed to be more active in supporting civil society groups who were trying to ensure better local accountability of police forces in Nigeria, and to educate the electorate in the importance of their engaging in these issues. We believe it is a priority for Nigeria's future stability that support is given to such groups, particularly if British support to the security services will continue. The two need to go hand in hand. What support is the Government currently offering to such groups?

Thirdly, we believe it is important for the British Government to make clear to Nigerian authorities that it is watching carefully the respect of the constitutional principles of free speech and the freedom of association as well as the overall respect of human rights in the country. We welcome the meetings you have had with the President's Chief of Staff on 21st November and the Governor of Lagos on the 11th November, however, what ministerial level discussions has the FCDO had with Nigerian Ministers regarding the #EndSARS protests?

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Chi Onwurah MP, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Africa

Kate Osamor MP, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Nigeria

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