

**SITUATION ROOM'S STATEMENT ON THE BRUTAL KILLING OF INNOCENT PROTESTERS AT LEKKI TOLL PLAZA IN LAGOS**

**Issued in Abuja: 10:00am, Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020**

The Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room is alarmed by the brutal, despicable killing of young and peaceful #EndSARS protesters by armed security officials at the Lekki Toll Plaza in Lagos. The killing of peaceful protesters by armed security officials comes barely 48 hours after the Nigerian Armed Forces announced the commencement of what it termed "Operation Crocodile Smile" thus opening questions about the connection between the military operation and this evil pre-meditated attack on innocent, peaceful protesters.

The Situation Room is calling on the National Assembly leadership to immediately summon the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari, the Chief of Army Staff and the Inspector General of Police, to appear in a public and open hearing at the National Assembly, to explain the circumstances that led to the brutal massacre of peaceful protesters in Lagos. Situation Room is also concerned that armed thugs have been mobilised to attack innocent protesters across the country, carrying out bizarre acts of violence against peaceful protesters, citizens and properties without the Police or any security official intervening to halt this slide into anarchy. Situation Room calls on the National Assembly public hearing to determine responsibility for the killing of these innocent protesters and pursue commensurate action to bring perpetrators to justice, including their prosecution. Government institutions and individuals fanning and instigating armed thugs to attack innocent protesters should be held accountable. Situation Room also calls on the international community to take urgent action to bring to bear international action and response to the brutality of security forces against innocent and peaceful protesters.

-----  
**SIGNED:**  
*Clement Nwankwo*

*Convener*

*For: Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room*

**The Situation Room is made up of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working in support of credible and transparent elections in Nigeria and includes such groups as Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC), CLEEN Foundation, Action Aid Nigeria, Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD), Proactive Gender Initiative (PGI), Centre for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), Nigerian Women Trust Fund (NWTF), African Centre for Leadership, Strategy & Development (Centre LSD), CITAD, Enough is Enough Nigeria, WANGONET, Partners for Electoral Reform, JDPC, New Initiative for Social Development and Youth Initiative for Advocacy, Growth & Advancement (YIAGA). Others are Development Dynamics, Stakeholder Democracy Network, Human Rights Monitor, Reclaim Naija, Alliance for Credible Elections (ACE), CISLAC, The Conscience for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution (CHRCCR), Young Innovators and Vocational Training Initiative, Edo CSOs, CONGOs Edo State, Brave Heart Initiative, LAPDO, Partners West Africa and several other CSOs numbering more than seventy.**

-----  
**Contact information:**

**Website:** [situationroom.placng.org](http://situationroom.placng.org)

**Email:** [situationroom@placng.org](mailto:situationroom@placng.org)

**Twitter:** @situationroomng

#NigeriaSituationRoom

**Facebook:** [Facebook.com/situationroomnigeria](https://www.facebook.com/situationroomnigeria)

**Hotlines:** 09095050505, 09032999919