

**SITUATION ROOM'S STATEMENT ON THE NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMMISSION'S SANCTION OF MEDIA HOUSES -  
Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**Issued 3:30PM in Abuja**

The Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room condemns the imposition of fines by the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) on Arise Television, Channels Television and the African Independent Television (AIT) for their reportage on the #EndSARS protests and the crisis that ensued.

The imposition of a fine violates the rights to freedom of expression and the press as provided by section 39 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended), and appears as an attempt to intimidate and suppress the media.

The Broadcasting Commission cannot wield unrestrained, subjective powers in the purported discharge of its duties. Situation Room calls on the leadership of the NBC to review these sanctions limiting media independence and free press, which are essential features of a democracy.

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**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 (NWF), 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 Africa). 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 (CHRCR), 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.**

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