



LEDAP
LEGAL DEFENCE AND ASSISTANCE PROJECT

Lagos: 11B, Christ Avenue, off Admiralty Road, Lekki Phase 1.

Tel: 01 291 4123, 0703 000 0014 (Toll Free), 0803 691 3264.

Email: info@ledapnigeria.org.

Abuja: 4, Manzini Street, Wuse Zone 4.

Tel: 09 290 1589, 0813 846 0703.

Port Harcourt: 2, Ezimgbu Link Road (Last Floor), Off Stadium Road.

Tel: 0803 302 4914.

Oshogbo: Public Defender Wing, Osun State Ministry of Justice Complex.

www.ledapnigeria.org, Twitter: #LEDAPNG, Facebook@LEDAPNG

PRESS RELEASE

LEDAP Demands for Immediate Release of 12 IDPs Arrested by Borno Police Command for Peaceful Protest

Abuja, September 27, 2017: The Legal Defence and Assistance Project, demands for the unconditional release of the 12 IDPs arrested by the Officers of the Nigerian Police Force, Borno State Command, on the 24th of September, 2017. LEDAP notes that these peaceful protesters were merely exercising their constitutional rights by protesting to be allowed to return to their communities.

LEDAP is concerned that the arrest and detention of the Internally Displaced Persons amount to the violation of their fundamental human rights and also contravenes the constitutional provision for the freedom of Expression of every citizen of Nigeria as contained in Section 39 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. We are also aware that these IDPs were kept in custody beyond 24 hours before been arraigned in Magistrate Court and wish to remind that keeping suspects beyond 24 hours is an offence contrary to Section.35 (5) a of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

LEDAP is worried that the continued arrest and detention of these IDPs is capable of causing tensions in the camps and therefore warns that these persons be released with immediate effect.

We also note that it is not the duty of police to arrest and detain peaceful protesters but rather to maintain civil order and provide adequate security to the protesters to ensure that they do not cause any security harm to the lives and properties of individuals in the society. LEDAP is aware that these IDPs have been arraigned before a magistrate court and granted bail on stringent terms which have made it impossible for them to meet up with those terms. We therefore solicit that these terms are reviewed to enable the suspects meet their bail conditions so they can regain freedom.

We therefore call on the Chief Magistrate of the Wulari Magistrate Court to review the bail conditions of these IDPs and the Borno Police Command to ensure that they are released with immediate effect.

Signed

Chino Obiagwu

National Coordinator