TRAINING ON MONITORING AND DOCUMENTATION

LEDAP TEAM REPORT ON AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL TRAINING (DAY 1)

INTRODUCTION

The Amnesty International training on monitoring and documentation of human rights abuses was organized by the Stop Torture project group of Amnesty International Nigeria and held at Don Ritz Hotel, Awka, Anambra State on the 12th of September 2017. Lawyers and Para-legal staff from organizations involved in human rights issues were in attendance with LEDAP being represented by the trio of Pamela Okoroigwe, Abiola Popoola and Oliver Omoredia.

COMMENCEMENT

The training commenced at about 10:15am with the introduction and welcome remarks coordinated by Amnesty’s Onyinye Onyemobi, the project coordinator of the Stop Torture project. Onyinye introduced Dr Abiola Akiyode-Afolabi and Andrew Maki as her co-facilitators.

After the introduction, Onyinye invited Mr Adrew Maki to give a brief overview of human rights and the stop torture project. Andrew in his overview, talked of the various laws against torture operative in Nigeria and internationally. He noted that despite the provisions in the Nigerian constitution and the African charter against torture, there was still a push for law against torture in Nigeria to ensure proper encompassing
definition of what torture is and to provide a penalty against torture when it occurs as the constitutional provisions only condemns without punishment for violation.

**TRAINING.**

Onyinye Onyemobi started the training session with presentation on “**Introduction to Monitoring Human Rights Abuses**”. In the interactive session, Onyinye discussed what monitoring for Torture and Cruel, Inhuman, Degrading Treatment and Punishment (CIDT) entails. She talked of the necessary information to be gathered during monitoring of human rights abuses and the sources of such information. Questions where entertained thereafter.

After Onyinye’s presentation, Dr Abiola Akinyode-Afolabi, was invited to present on “**Documentation of Human Rights Abuses**”. Dr Abiola, talked on what documentation of human rights abuses is, the methods of gathering information, assessing individual allegations of violations and the uses of information gathered. She noted that it is important to employ the questions; why? when? where? who? and how? when gathering information and emphasized the importance of keeping adequate record of data. The University of Lagos Law lecturer also trained participants on how to make reports after gathering data.

Lunch break immediately preceded Dr Abiola’s presentation after which participants were paired into groups to demonstrate the training on documentation of human rights abuses using scenarios.

The first day of the training came to an end at about 5:20pm with Onyinye giving the closing remarks.