

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER THE WORKSHOP ON STATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICE AND ENFORCEMENT IN THE FCT: THE NEED FOR COLLABORATION AMONG STAKEHOLDERS ORGANISED BY NBA ABUJA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE IN COLLABORATION WITH KONARD ADENAUER STIFTUNG(KAS) AT THE CEREMONIAL COURT OF THE FCT HIGH COURT MAITAMA ON THE 25TH OF JULY, 2013.

The NBA human rights committee, Conscious of the prevalent cases of violation of Human Rights in the FCT and Nigeria as a whole.

- ✓ Cognisant of the stakes of the legal practitioners and their imperative to intervene in the prevailing circumstances,
- ✓ Desirous to ensure the promotion, protection and enforcement of Human Rights in the FCT,
- ✓ Mindful of the need for collaboration amongst all the stakeholders in the handling of cases of Human Rights abuse,
- ✓ Concerned with the urgency to mitigate the regular occurrence of Human Rights abuse in the FCT,

Organised a one day workshop in collaboration with KONRAD ADENAUER STIFTUNG(KAS) on state of Human Rights practice and enforcement in the FCT: The need for collaboration among stakeholders on the 25th day of July, 2013 at the ceremonial court of the FCT High Court, Maitama.

The workshop was attended by important stakeholders in the practice and enforcement of Human Rights in the FCT. The lead paper titled “EXPANDING THE FRONTIERS OF HUMAN RIGHTS: THE ROLE OF THE LAWYER” was delivered by Prof. Chidi Anslem Odinkalu, chairman National Human Rights Commission.

In attendance at this epoch making event were the chairman NBA Abuja Branch (Unity Bar) Mr. U. M. Yamah, Mrs. Hildegard Behrenlt-Kigozi- Country Representative, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Mitchel Milardo- U. S. Embassy Representative, Hawau Shekarau- FIDA Country Representative, Mr. Uzodimma Cosmas- Representative Director pf Agis'. Representatives of Law Enforcement Agencies in the FCT, Bishop Prof. C. O. Williams, Iyom Josephine Anenih, former minister of women affairs, members of the unity bar, civil society groups and the press.

After the workshop, the following views of participants were in focus as foundation for a communique:

1. That there is great need for synergy between all stakeholders in the promotion, protection and enforcement of Human Rights in the FCT.
2. That Lawyers and Nigerian Bar Association are very important stakeholders and should be at the forefront of the war against Right Abuse in the country..
3. That prosecutors should be more deligent in the prosecution of Human Right cases.
4. That everyone is a stakeholder in Human Rights and as such all should speak out and question our leaders as accountability in governance is key to the actualization of human rights.
5. That heinous, condemnable and worthy of investigation is the allegation of killing of twins in a community in the FCT.
6. That unacceptable is the abuse of the rights of women under the guise of religious and cultural belief: WOMEN'S RIGHT IS HUMAN RIGHT.
7. That disabled persons are human and machinery must be put in place to ensure that their rights are captured in our laws.
8. That there is need for all the stakeholders to have a deep understanding of the concept "Human Rights" to guard against paying only lip service to the upholding of the rights of the citizens.
9. That ethical values, morality and integrity are core to the upholding of Rule of Law and inturn, the protection of Human Rights.

10. That legal practitioners should equip themselves with the very important legal tool, Fundamental Rights Enforcement Procedure Rules in the fight against human rights abuse.
11. That to effectively fight violation of Human Rights everyone must have respect for the entity called Nigeria.
12. That demolitions in the FCT lead to great security crisis and constitute a great source of human rights abuses.
13. That our Human Rights concepts should also reflect our cultural and religious beliefs, especially on the issue of same-sex marriage.
14. That the rampant cases of sexual abuse of women in the FCT calls for the attention of the NBA and support should be garnered for the quick passage of the Bill on Violations Against Persons.
15. That the Press has a great role to play in the actualization of human rights enforcements by exposing what is going on in our society.
16. That the justiciability of chapter 2 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (As Amended) is very pertinent to the actualization of human rights as contained in chapter 4 of the constitution.
17. That any form of delay in taking a suspect to court or delay in prosecution of criminal case is an abuse of the rights of both the victims of crime and the accused persons.
18. That common and equal Nigerian citizenship is key to the actualization of human rights in our society.
19. That the de-population of Abuja for the purpose of creating a capital city is a direct affront on the rights of the indigenes of the FCT and calls for immediate remedy.

PREPARED BY OGU OGECHI C. ESQ.