



NIGERIAN MUSLIMS NETWORK

And hold fast, all of you together, to the Rope of Allah, and be not disunited

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NMN DENOUNCES THE WRONGFUL ARREST OF TWO NIGERIANS IN MALAYSIA ALLEGEDLY LINKED WITH TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS

(For immediate release)

Wednesday, 10 February, 2010 (25 Safar 1431)

The Nigerian Muslims Network (NMN) strongly denounces the premeditated acts of the Malaysian security agents in the arrest of two Nigerian Muslims undergoing their PhD programmes in Malaysia. These peace-loving brothers are known for their calmness and peaceful conducts, and have been living in Malaysia since 2006 contrary to some of the reports in the media that they were new in the country. We wish to call on the Malaysian government to follow the rule of law in releasing the two detainees as well as the remaining seven brothers since up till now no case has been established against them.

The Malaysian Police has denied the Nigerian High Commission in Malaysia the access to the two students despite many attempts. The Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of the case rather visited the office of the Nigerian High Commission in Malaysia to brief the mission about the matter. Interestingly, some Malaysian human right groups/NGOs have been allowed access to have discussion with all the detainees.

This arrest of the international students and one Malaysian pursuing Masters and PhD studies in public universities in Malaysia on the fateful Thursday 21st January, 2010 was a major headline in all the news media across the world. The arrest came on the heels of the unremitting agitation by human rights activists and lawyers within Malaysia and beyond to abolish the draconian law called the Internal Security Act (ISA).

We, in the NMN, believe in peace and rule of law. The authorities in Malaysia have fed the whole world with false information regarding the activities of the brothers arrested. The media, on its part, has continuously assumed the position of a launching pad of Islamophobia. NMN believes that this is another calculated attempt to profile and negatively stereotype the Muslims especially Nigerians.

The NMN hereby reiterates its call on the Malaysian government, as well as other countries across the world, to refrain from unsubstantiated allegations against peace-loving Muslims who are carrying out their normal businesses. Such allegations are mostly without merit and lack concrete evidence which justify our earlier assertion that up to this moment, nothing has been found against the detainees. Therefore, the detainees should be released without further delay.

Signed,

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Notes for editors

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