



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

NIGERIAN MUSLIMS NETWORK

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

HomePage: www.nmnonline.net

Email: nmnsecgen@nmnonline.net

March 19th, 2009.

An Open Letter to President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua on Racial Discrimination and Killings of Innocent African Students in Malaysia.

Your Excellency,

Conscious of your position as the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and number one citizen of our great nation, we, Nigerian Muslims in Nigeria and Diaspora under the umbrella of Nigerian Muslims Network (NMN), address this Open Letter to you with all due sense of respect and responsibility. We could have dispatched this letter directly to your office but doubt if it would be given the prompt attention required given the volume of mails you receive daily.

Your Excellency, NMN was formed in 1991 as an Internet-based discussion group of hundreds of Nigerian Muslims mostly residing and working abroad. One of the main objectives of the NMN is to work towards building an accountable, fair and just society for all Nigerians, in line with one of the central teachings of Islam of enjoining the good and forbidding the evil. The NMN issues out press releases on matters that affect Nigerian Muslims in particular and all Nigerians in general, whenever the need for such arises.

We have read in recent times with disgust and utmost dismay the racial discrimination and killings of innocent and law-abiding students of African origin studying in Malaysia. Some Malaysian individuals, without any regard for human life and dignity, resorted to extorting money from African students, robbing them of their properties and ultimately killing them. Not less than three African students have been killed within one year. A Malaysian newspaper (Malay Mail of September 23rd, 2008; also available online at http://www.mmail.com.my/Victims_of_hate.aspx) broke the news of the death of Mr. Abdel Aziz Hassan Abdraman, 22 years old, on September 21st, 2008 by a group of Malaysian youth who were angered by his inability to give them money when demanded for. The death of Mr. Kadar Abdul Kadir Said followed a similar trend when, on January 22nd, 2009 (Malay Mail of January 23rd, 2009, Pg. 4-5; also available online at http://www.mmail.com.my/Somali_student-as-s_fatal_vacation.aspx), he was clubbed mercilessly with crash helmets, iron bars and stones before finally strangled to death by the Malaysian youth.

Most striking and disheartening is the silence and lukewarm attitude of the Malaysian Government in correcting this dangerous trend in the country. Despite several media reports on the deaths of these young, innocent, and promising students, the Malaysian government has not, either overtly or covertly, apprehended or reprimanded the perpetrators of these heinous acts.

It is obvious that these happenings contravene international laws, violates fundamental human rights, and shows a total lack of consideration for the worth of a human being. If it is left unchecked, it will create a high sense of phobia for present and intending students of African origin (of which Nigerians constitute an appreciable percentage) to study in Malaysia.

It is equally important to say that Malaysia, being a model for aspiring and developing nations, especially in Africa, has motivated many African students to give her higher preference compared to



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other countries. It is sad to note that the expectation of these students studying in Malaysia has been eroded by these unfortunate incidences and with the tacit support of the government establishment. We are of the opinion that the African countries, especially those whose citizens are studying in Malaysia, should enter into a diplomatic dialogue with the Malaysian government on the way to forestall future occurrence of these criminal acts and bring the perpetrators to justice.

It is in the light of this, and bearing in mind that there are hundreds of Nigerian students studying in Malaysia, that we call on the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, under your able leadership, to put in place all necessary machinery that will ensure the security of life and properties of Nigerians studying in Malaysia.

Your Excellency, we thank you for your time and look forward to a very prompt action to arresting this dangerous trend.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Kamorudeen Abidogun

Amir, Nigerian Muslims Network
(2008-2010)

Engr. Bashir Bello

Secretary General, Nigerian Muslims Network
(2008-2010)

cc:

The Senate President
The Speaker, National House of Representatives
The Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Federation
The Minister of Foreign Affairs
The Nigerian Ambassador to Malaysia
The National Security Adviser
The Chairman Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs
All daily newspapers in Nigeria