



CITIZENS UNITED FOR THE REHABILITATION OF ERRANTS

CURE-NIGERIA

...Defending Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms ...Enriching our Democracy

25th October, 2016

Your Lordship, Hon. Justice Ishaq Bello,
The Chief Judge of the Federal Capital Territory,
Abuja.

Hon. Chief Judge's Chamber
RECEIVED

26 OCT 2016

High Court of Justice
FCT Abuja

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26/10/16

Your Lordship,

A LETTER OF REQUEST TO PAY AN URGENT AND EMERGENCY VISIT TO KEFFI PRISON

We wish to bring to your notice that during our routine visit to Keffi New Prison three months ago to interview inmates for legal aid, we found out that there were inmates there who do not have record in any court in the FCT, even though the remand warrants bear the signatures and stamps of some high courts in the FCT.

Further investigations reveal that the affected inmates, whose names are listed in the attachment, were not arraigned in courts prior to their detention in prison and that they were taken to the prisons directly from the police stations.

To ascertain the validity or otherwise of these claims, CURE-Nigeria went to all the courts that issued the remand warrants, including the registry at the FCT High Court to trace their records, but could not find any record of these defendants.

Consequently, the affected inmates have not been to court since their detention in Keffi Prison, as all efforts by Keffi Prison authority and our organisation to trace their records so that they can have access to fair hearing have failed.

Hence, we are writing to you on behalf of the affected inmates, the NPS to request Your Lordship to pay an urgent and emergency visit to Keffi Prisons to review these and other cases requiring urgent attention for necessary actions. Please, note that there are reports from the same prison that the number of inmates affected by this phenomenon has increased since we visited, as this has become a common practice.

We do hope that in your usual manner, you would take immediate actions to bring justice to this issue and to ensure that the affected inmates do not stay in

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Chapter

prison beyond December, 2016, as well as hold anyone found wanting accountable and put in place mechanisms that would prevent this from continuing to happen.

As usual, we wish you all the best in your work, while placing ourselves at your service towards ensuring justice reforms in the FCT.

Please, accept our highest regards,

Yours faithfully,


Sylvester Terhemeh Uhaa,

Executive Director,

CURE-Nigeria.

CC: In-Charge, Keffi New Prison, Keffi, Nasarawa State