



# CITIZENS UNITED FOR THE REHABILITATION OF ERRANTS

CURE-NIGERIA

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

*'Although we can all agree that incarceration is sometimes necessary for public safety in our work to protect the American people, we must recognise that incarceration alone does not provide the entire solution. Simply building more prisons and jails will not solve all our problems. Any effective and economically sustainable public strategy must include investments that will help reduce recidivism and to address the root cause of crime'* Eric Holder, former US Attorney General.

24<sup>th</sup> February, 2017

The Chairman,

Governors Forum, Peoples Democratic Party,

His Excellency, Peter Ayodele Fayose,

The Executive Governor of Ekiti State,

Ekiti State Governor's Lounge,

Plot 3781 Cadastral Zone A04,

TY Danjuma Street,

Asokoro, Abuja.

Your Excellency,

**RE: A LETTER TO THE PDP GOVERNORS FORUM ON THE URGENT NEED TO INITIATE CRIMINAL JUSTICE/PRISON REFORMS PROGRAMS AND INVEST IN PRISONER REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION.**

Our organisation, Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE-Nigeria), a non-governmental, non-profit and non-partisan organisation, committed to justice and prison reforms wishes to use the umbrella of the PDP Governors Forum to ask all the governors to initiate justice and prison reforms programs and invest in prisoner rehabilitation and reintegration in their states. The time has come when justice and prison reforms can no longer be left for the Federal Government alone.

We wish to bring to your attention that out of the over 69,000 inmates across the country, more than 46 thousand are awaiting trial, making Nigeria the 5<sup>th</sup> country with the highest pre-trial detention population in Africa, trailing Libya, Benin Republic, DCR, and Central African Republic. Almost all the prisons in big cities are holding thrice their designated capacities, triggering frequent jail breaks.



Office Address: Flat 4, No. 18, Federal Housing Authority,  
Julius Nyerere Crescent (Opposite Asokoro Gen. Hospital Exit Gate) Asokoro, Abuja

E-mail: [cure@curenigeria.org](mailto:cure@curenigeria.org)

[WWW.curenigeria.org](http://WWW.curenigeria.org)

Tel: (234)-92911-314 , 08034365657



Chapter

Your Excellencies, this situation does not only pose significant health, economic and social consequences for the inmates, their families and your entire states, but it also constitutes a serious security threat to the host communities.

Also, the continued detention of suspects without trial for many years, clearly represents the cruellest and most brutal means of human rights abuse and the abuse of power by those entrusted with power to protect human rights and dignity. It is also serious dent on the image of Nigeria in the eyes of the international community. Prolonged pre-trial detention is a colossal waste of human potential that comes at a considerable cost to your respective states, taxpayers, families, and communities, as some of those who have been detained unjustly would have engaged in one form of economic activity or the other, contributing to economic growth of your states and that of the Nation. But instead, they are dependants on government.

Consequently, CURE-Nigeria asks Your Excellencies to demand that all those who are charged with the responsibility of ensuring justice delivery in your respective states to do their job. In particular, we request your Excellencies to ask the Attorney-General and Commissioners of Justice in your respective states to work with the House of Assembly to domesticate the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015.

Additionally, we ask your Excellencies to liaise with the Chief Judge of your states to pay frequent visits to prisons to review cases of those awaiting trial and make recommendations for speedy trial of cases unduly delayed, and free those who are unjustly detained for periods exceeding the allowable time.

Furthermore, we request Your Excellencies to provide logistics and other forms of support to the prisons in your states to enable them perform their constitutional obligations optimally.

In closing, we strongly advice Your Excellencies that given that most prison inmates in your states are the indigenes of your states, it has become imperative that your states make budgetary allocations for legal aid for the poor and to support prisoner education and other rehabilitation and reintegration programs in the prisons, as this will impact heavily on your efforts to fight crime, spur economic and social development and achieve peace.

Your Excellencies, the time has come when justice and prison reforms can no longer be left for the Federal Government alone.

Thank you and God bless you.

Yours faithfully,

