



CITIZENS UNITED FOR THE REHABILITATION OF ERRANTS

CURE-NIGERIA

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

CAC/IT/NO 26732

7th August, 2017

The Commissioner of Police

Federal Capital Territory

Abuja

FCT

Sir,



**RE - CONTINUOUS INCARCERATION OF SUSPECTS AT THE
INSTANCE OF COMMISSIONER OF POLICE (FCT) IN KEFFI PRISON
WITHOUT ARRAIGNMENT / TRAIL IN COURT.**

We are lawyers from a non – governmental organization called CURE – NIGERIA, part of our mandates is to help in reducing the number of awaiting trial men in prison and representing indigent persons. We do this by visiting different prisons in Nigeria to identify inmates that fall within the category of persons that are qualify to enjoy our representation.

Sir, in one of our visits to Keffi prison in Nasarawa State, we discovered that over 30 persons are in prison without arraignment in any court. It means that these persons are neither awaiting trial men or convicts and this for us is an ill wind that does not blow our criminal justice system any good. Some of these persons have spent close to a year in prison without arraignment and there is no hope in sight that they will be arraigned in court any time soon. Upon an interview with some of them, they informed us that they were just moved from police detention facility in SARS situate in Abatair, FCT to prison.



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

E-mail: cure@curenigeria.org

WWW. curenigeria.org

Tel: (234)-92911-314



Chapter

Sir, this petition is brought to you because you are one of the key players in the administration of criminal Justice Act, 2015 by reason of your office and we are optimistic that you can bring an end to this ill wind. Sir, we appreciate the fact that the law enforcement agencies can obtain a remand warrant to remand a suspect to allow for investigation by reason of section 293 of ACJA 2015, but there is a limit to it in section 296(4, and 6]. Sir, one of the issues that gives us concern is that the remand warrant with which some of these persons were remanded with have no names of the Judges or magistrate that issued them. The courts that issued the warrants are not traceable even by the prison authority and some time where there is a court written on the warrant it is not in existence.

Sir the continuous presence of these persons in prison does not promote the cause of justice as they deserve to be tried by a court of competent jurisdiction. We therefore urge you sir to use your good office to address this issue timorously by preferring a charge against these persons in court or set them free if there is no need for prosecution. The status of these inmates is unknown to law as they are neither awaiting trial men nor convicts.

We attach herewith a copy of the list of these persons who are languishing in prison without hope of being tried for whatever allegation against them.

Thanks and God bless you sir for your anticipated quick response.

Yours faithfully

