PRESS RELEASE

Sanusi’s banishment: CISLAC condemns deliberate violation of constitutional rights, freedom

The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) is seriously concerned over the most recent development that resulted in dethronement and banishment of the former Emir of Kano State, Sanusi Lamido Sanusi II.

While we received as great surprise the reported dethronement, we at the same time find the imposed banishment of the dethroned Emir to Loko Local Government, Nassarawa state, as nothing but infringement of fundamental human rights as guarantees under Section 41 (1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, which safeguards the right of every citizen of Nigeria to move freely throughout Nigeria and to reside in any part thereof, stressing that “no citizen of Nigeria shall be expelled from Nigeria or refused entry thereby or exit therefrom”.

We uphold our position on citizens’ right to freedom of expression and the press as guarantees under Section 39 of the Constitution, while we understood that expression of personal opinion or view on governance never constitute a criminal offence or a justification for criminal punishments like humiliation, inhumanity and degrading treatments as imposed on Sanusi upon his dethronement.

Just as the pronounced banishment by the State Government contravenes Section 35 of the Constitution which safeguards every person’s right to his/her personal liberty, stating that no person should be deprived of such liberty except in circumstances set out in Subsection 35(a-f), given the procedure permitted by law.

We are disappointed at the open-display of rascality and disproportionate deployment of some government agencies including the Police Force as mercenaries to amplify tussles, public harassment, extrajudicial implementation of imposition of restriction of movement and personal liberty of the dethroned monarch without iota of respect to the Constitutional provisions.

We call for President Muhammadu Buhari’s sincere and constructive intervention to uphold the Constitutional provisions to ensure the dethroned Sanusi enjoys his rights and freedom of movement, as clear demonstration for leadership respect for civility and democratic core values.

We urge all government agencies including the armed forces dissuade from undemocratic actions that could be interpreted as harassment, intimidation and oppression of citizens on the basis of exercising their Constitutional guaranteed freedoms and rights.

We further call on civil society and the media to discourage unconstitutional and undemocratic actions against citizens.
Signed:

Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani)

Executive Director, CISLAC
PRESS RELEASE

SANUSI’S BANISHMENT: CISLAC CONDEMNS DELIBERATE VIOLATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW.

The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) is seriously concerned over the manner of the dethronement and subsequent banishment of the former Emir of Kano State, Sanusi Lamido Sanusi II.

While we received as great surprise the reported dethronement, we at the same time find the imposed banishment of the dethroned Emir to Loko Local Government, Nassarawa state, as nothing but clear infringement of the fundamental rights as guaranteed under Sections 34, 35, 36, 40 and most especially section 41 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended, which safeguards the right of every citizen of Nigeria to move freely throughout Nigeria and to reside in any part thereof”.

We vehemently and categorically uphold our position on citizens’ right to freedom of expression and movement as guaranteed under Section 39 and 41 of the Constitution. There is no justification for the humiliation, inhumane and degrading treatments as imposed on Sanusi upon his banishment.

Just as the pronounced banishment by the State Government contravenes Section 35 of the Constitution which safeguards every person’s right to his/her personal liberty, stating that no person should be deprived of such liberty except in circumstances set out in Subsection 35(a-f), given the procedure permitted by law as none of such procedure is followed in the instance case.

We are amused at the open-display of rascality and disproportionate deployment of some government mercenaries including police force and other security institutions to amplify tussles, public harassment, extrajudicial implementation of imposition of restriction of movement and personal liberty of the dethroned monarch without iota of respect to the rule of laws and various Constitutional provisions.

We call on President Muhammadu Buhari to sincerely and constructively intervene by upholding the Constitutional provisions to ensure that the rule of laws is adhered to and
the dethroned Sanusi enjoys all his rights and freedom of movement, as clear demonstration for leadership, respect for civility, democratic core values and the Constitution.

We urge all government institutions including the security institutions to refrain and dissuade from undemocratic and inhumane actions that is tantamount to harassment, intimidation and oppression of citizens on the basis of exercising their legal mandates.

We further call on civil society, media and well-meaning Nigerians to rise up in discouraging unconstitutional and undemocratic actions against any citizen.

Signed:

Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani)

Executive Director, CISLAC