PRESS RELEASE

EXPULSION OF JOURNALIST FROM VILLA: CISLAC CONDEMNS EFFORT TO FRUSTRATE ACCOUNTABILITY

The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) condemns in totality, the most recent undemocratic attitude of the present administration at sabotaging efforts to demand transparency and accountability in its dealings, that consequentially led to the expulsion of Mr. Ubale Musa, the State House correspondent of German Radio, Deutsche Welle from Presidential Villa, Abuja, for asking visiting Chadian President, Idriss Derby, a question which the authority found to be embarrassing.

CISLAC gathered that Musa was unconstitutionally expelled from the Villa following his question to the visiting President to explain the relationship between the multinational task force fighting in Lake Chad and the South African mercenaries fighting with them.

We find it worrisome that the present administration has continued to embark on series of political power games to cover up its alleged scandals, especially on the nation’s security vote. This manifests in persistent unjustified attacks against person or group of persons interrogating process that could unveil truths around the scandalous development, which is not unconnected to the unforgettable $9.3 million undeclared cash allegedly meant for the purchase of arms through black market, seized by South African authority on 5th September 2014.

We find it shameful, the years of fraudulent efforts and conspiracies cooked around the nation’s security vote in the name of combating insecurity in the North East. The ongoing attempt by the outgoing administration at boycotting efforts to demand accountability clearly nullifies the claim that whopping sums were expended on the purchase of fighting artillery.

We observed neither has the expelled person discharged his duty in contrary to the 1999 Constitutional provisions of Federal Republic of Nigeria, nor 2011 Freedom of Information (FOI) Act.

We therefore, demand immediate recall of the expelled journalist to continue performing his duty as constitutionally mandated to promote transparency and accountability in the nation’s political atmosphere.

Signed

Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani)
Executive Director, CISLAC