PRESS RELEASE

CISLAC demands appreciable measures to curb incessant human trafficking

The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) expresses concern over poor policy response to the persistent maiming and deaths of Nigerian youths exacerbated by human trafficking activities within and outside the country.

While we condemn the political laxity in convening investigation and devising appropriate mechanisms to curb incessant horrific challenges associating human trafficking with resultant death of 26 teenage Nigerian migrant girls in the Mediterranean recently and their hurried burial by Italian authority, we find it saddened that teeming Nigerian youths have in recent times become victims of pernicious promises and irrational enticements preached human trafficking demagogues within and outside the country.

We observe that human traffickers leverage the current socio-economic disparity posing high unemployment rate and the nation’s porous borders in manipulation and conversion of the youths to acceptance of their dreadful financial offers, scholarships and other luxurious incentives that subsequently manifest as auction for slavery.

It is no more news that the precarious activities of human traffickers have left thousands of Nigerian youths stranded across the globe including the wart-torn countries with slim chance of survival or safe return to the country.

We find it worrisome that despite Nigeria’s participations in various international, continental and regional summits where precarious impacts of migration to the nation’s socio-economic prosperity are discussed, the catastrophic but unchecked activities which continue for years as amplified by the recent occurrence in Italy have not confused relevant authorities to devise immediate measures or strengthen existing institutions to avert recurrence.

We therefore, demand immediate but appreciable measures by relevant authorities to address persistent corrupt practices across the nation’s porous borders which have been giving chances to human trafficking activities.

We demand effective implementation of national regulatory framework like National Policy on Migration to ensure appropriate coordination of migration activities by National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) to monitor and protect human, economic, labour and civil rights of Nigerians across the globe.

We call on the government at all levels to take as a matter of urgency and strengthen existing institutions like National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) in case of preventing, suppressing and punishing offenders; and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in case of search and rescue of stranded Nigerians in slavery across the world.
We further call on governments at all levels to take as priority, enabling environment for youth employment opportunities to complement and sustain efforts at addressing human trafficking and slavery activities.

Signed:
Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani)
Executive Director, CISLAC