

CISLAC Calls for Peaceful Protests, Urges Protection of Demonstrators Amid Concerns of Hijack by Thugs and Political Actors

Abuja, Nigeria – The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) has called on protesters to maintain peace and avoid the destruction of properties amid growing concerns that the demonstrations have been hijacked by criminal elements and political actors with nefarious intentions.

In a statement signed by Comrade Auwal Musa Rafsanjani, Executive Director of CISLAC, the organization expressed deep concern over the deteriorating security situation and the influence of non-state actors in several states, including Kano. The situation, observed through CISLAC's situation room, indicates that security operatives are being influenced by political interference linked to local rivalries, leading to inadequate protection of peaceful protesters.

"The peaceful demonstrations by Nigerians, initially intended to express legitimate grievances, have unfortunately been hijacked and turned into violent chaos," stated Comrade Rafsanjani. "Criminal elements are exploiting the protests to create further unrest and undermine public safety."

CISLAC emphasized that the government must refrain from politicizing security measures, particularly in Kano, and prioritize the protection of lives and properties. The violence and destruction currently witnessed are contrary to the intentions of the peaceful protesters.

"The government should stop politicizing security in Kano and protect the lives and properties of all. The balkanization of properties and killings witnessed are not in tandem with what innocent Nigerians are calling for," the statement continued.

CISLAC also condemned provocative statements made by public officials, including the Minister of FCT, Nyesom Wike, and Senate President Godswill Akpabio, which have exacerbated tensions and incited further unrest. "Reckless and provocative statements by public officials can incite Nigerians to take to the streets. Such statements undermine the legitimacy of the protesters' concerns and should be avoided."

Furthermore, the organization criticized the government's alleged sponsorship of counter-protests aimed at undermining the legitimate demonstrations. "The government's actions have endangered peaceful protesters, leading to attacks and hijacking by thugs and non-state actors," Rafsanjani added.

CISLAC had previously called on the government to ensure the protection of peaceful protesters, a measure that, if properly implemented, could have prevented the current state of chaos. "We have observed troubling trends and urge genuine protesters to continue their demonstrations peacefully to prevent criminals from exploiting the situation."

The statement concluded with a plea to respected leaders across the country to ensure an end to the violence and destruction. "We appeal to all Nigerians to avoid any violent,

criminal, and political destruction. The protests, meant to address legitimate concerns, should not be equated with criminal activities and violence."

CISLAC remains committed to advocating for the protection of citizens' rights and ensuring that their voices are heard safely and peacefully.

Yours Sincerely,



Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani)

Executive Director of CISLAC/TI-Nigeria

