

Muhammadu Buhari
Nigerian Presidential Complex
Aso Rock Presidential Villa
Federal Capital Territory
Abuja, Nigeria

Noordwijk, the Netherlands, February 2022

Dear Sir,

I write to express my concern for the continuing prosecution of human rights activist and publisher for the online news agency Sahara Reporters, Omoyele Sowore. He is facing multiple trumped-up charges in Nigeria. On 3 August 2019, armed officials from Nigeria's Intelligence Service (DSS) arrested Sowore for planning a protest, tagged #RevolutionNow, to demand respect for human rights and the rule of law in Nigeria. He was arraigned for 'terrorism and insulting the President' and granted bail under stringent conditions after spending over four months in detention. On 1 January 2021, police again arrested Sowore for staging a peaceful protest and charged him with 'criminal conspiracy', 'inciting public disturbance' and 'unlawful assemblies'. He was released after spending ten days in prison custody. A Federal High Court in Abuja has adjourned his trial for trumped-up charges of treasonable felony till March 2022.

Omoyele Sowore has only been charged for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression and I therefore call on you to immediately and unconditionally drop all charges against him.

Thank you for your attention. I am kindly awaiting your reply.

Yours sincerely,