

## PRESS RELEASE

August 6, 2024

### WADEMOS CONDEMNS VIOLENT CLAMPDOWN ON PROTESTERS IN NIGERIA

The West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network (WADEMOS), a network comprising over 45 pro-democracy civil society organizations in West Africa, condemns the police crackdown on Nigerians protesting against harsh economic conditions and the state of governance in the country, resulting in the loss of lives.

The happenings in Nigeria add to a series of recent incidents signaling a growing suppression of civil rights across the ECOWAS subregion. It uncomfortably mirrors similar suppressions of protests in recent times in Burkina Faso, Mali, Guinea, Ghana, and Togo. The Network considers it regrettable that citizens' efforts to hold their government accountable are met with such excessive force, barely four years after Nigerians vociferously decried police brutalities during the ENDSARS Protests.

The Network calls on Nigerian authorities to investigate these incidents and subject those found culpable to the full rigors of the law in the interest of safeguarding and defending the rights of citizens, including freedom of speech and assembly.

We urge the government and relevant state authorities to grant an audience to the protesters, provide a clear roadmap, and commit to addressing their concerns and challenges, as a matter of urgency.

While entreating the government to engage the protestors and protect their rights, we also denounce the reported acts of lawlessness and destruction to private and public properties by some protestors and caution Nigerians to express their grievances by all lawful means without causing damage and havoc to properties.

We urge all protesters to resort to civil and peaceful processes for expressing their grievances, including the use of dialogue.

**-END-**

### About WADEMOS

WADEMOS is an independent and a non-partisan network of diverse national and transnational civil society organizations and civic groups working to promote and defend democracy, good governance and inclusive development in the West Africa region. WADEMOS mobilizes, coordinates, and leverages the collective voice and power of civil society and other pro-democracy actors, the West Africa region to advance its mission. The WADEMOS Secretariat is based in Accra, Ghana.

Solidarity for Democracy | Solidarité pour la Démocratie

Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) | Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) | West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) | WANEP | Center for Democracy and Development-West Africa (CDD-West Africa), Nigeria | StatView International, Guinea | Center for Democratic Governance (CDG), Burkina Faso | Africivistes, Senegal | Sindicato de Jornalistas e Técnicos de Comunicação (SINJOTEC), Guinea-Bissau | Association Femmes Leadership et Développement Durable (AFLED), Mali | Network of Women Leaders for Development (RFLD), Benin



West Africa Democracy Solidarity Network

**For more information, and media interviews, please contact:**

Name: Jonah Eledi

Designation: Communications and Digital Platforms Officer

Email: [j.eledi@wademosnetwork.org](mailto:j.eledi@wademosnetwork.org)

Phone Number: +233 26 373 5330

**Solidarity for Democracy | Solidarité pour la Démocratie**

Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) | Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) | West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) | WANEP | Center for Democracy and Development-West Africa (CDD-West Africa), Nigeria | StatView International, Guinea | Center for Democratic Governance (CDG), Burkina Faso | Africtivistes, Senegal | Sindicato de Jornalistas e Tecnicos de Comunicacao (SINJOTEC), Guinea-Bissau | Association Femmes Leadership et Development Durable (AFLED), Mali | Network of Women Leaders for Development (RFLD), Benin