

His Excellency
Muhammadu Buhari
President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
c/o Botschaft der Bundesrepublik Nigeria
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Your Excellency;

Please forgive me for approaching you on behalf of the Nigerian citizen, Ms. Rhoda Jatau. This 45-year old medical worker was arrested on May 20, 2022 for allegedly engaging, among other things, in "cyberstalking" and "blasphemy." The competent court subsequently refused release on bail.

Ms. Jatau is a Christian, and as a member of this minority in the state of Bauchi, she followed with great concern reports of the lynching of the Christian student Ms. Deborah Emmanuel Yakubu in the city of Sokoto in May of this year. Ms. Jatau had received a comment from Ghana concerning this issue via the internet message service WhatsApp, which she forwarded to colleagues. As a result, she almost experienced the same fate as Ms. Yakubu. Muslim colleagues apparently took offense at her statement and incited a crowd to storm her house in the town of Warji, in order to lynch her. She was, however, taken into protective custody and led away by security forces, who had been rushed to the scene.

For some time now, some groups in Nigeria have apparently been trying to use the blasphemy laws of their states to intimidate members of religious minorities. I therefore respectfully beseech you, dear Mr. President, to do everything in your power to advocate the immediate release of the detainees and to ensure the protection and physical integrity of the Christian woman, Rhoda Jatau. In the light of past lynchings that have taken place in parts of Nigeria, this is an urgent concern.

Most respectfully.