

The Attorney General of the Federation
and Minister of Justice
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Honorable Attorney General,

I am writing to you because of my serious concerns about Mubarak Bala, a prominent humanist based in Kaduna.

On 28 April 2020, a team of policemen arrested him at his home and charged him with blasphemy in connection to his posts on Facebook. He has since been held intermittently in incommunicado detention in Kaduna and he was transferred to Kano on 30 April 2020, where he remains in police custody, putting him at heightened risk of torture and ill-treatment. The authorities have continued to ignore the order for his release, as granted by the Federal High court on 21 December 2020.

Mubarak Bala is denied access to his lawyers, his family, and medical care, despite suffering from hypertension. His lawyers were finally granted access to visit him for the first and last time to date in December 2020.

I urge you to drop all charges against Mubarak Bala and to order his immediate and unconditional release. Pending his release, I ask you to ensure that he is granted immediate, regular and unfettered access to his family, lawyers and doctors.

Yours sincerely,

Copy:

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