



401 Ninth Street, NW, Suite 640  
Washington, DC 20004  
+1 202 430 1888  
[www.secularpolicyinstitute.net](http://www.secularpolicyinstitute.net)

August 1, 2015

President:

H.E. President Muhammadu Buhari  
The President of the Republic of Nigeria  
Nigerian Presidential Complex, Aso Rock Presidential Villa, Abuja

Kano State Governor:

H.E. Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, OFR  
The Executive Governor, Kano State

Ambassador:

H.E. Adebawale Ibidapo Adefuye  
3519 International Court NW  
Washington, DC 20008

Dear President Buhari, Governor Ganduje, and Ambassador Adefuye:

It is with a great deal of satisfaction that we congratulate you and the Nigerian People on the election of new Federal and state-level governments in the Federal Republic of Nigeria, culminating campaigns which promised to restore the rule of law, eliminate corruption, and to rebuild Nigeria's credibility in the world community.

However, we at the Secular Policy Institute, along with the below listed organizations, have deep concerns over the death sentences handed out for blasphemy last month by the Kano State Upper Sharia Court to nine individuals affiliated with the Tijaniyyah Sufi sect. We urge the government of Kano State and the Federal Government to issue full pardons and to ensure protection of the nine.

International conventions (e.g., Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights) and growing global consensus call for the preservation of the rights of free conscience and religious expression.

We write to advocate on behalf of Abdul Inyas and the other eight who are being sacrificed to pacify a mob. With the lack of transparency in the trial (including the names of the accused) and comments by local-authorities expressing relief at stemming further vigilante acts; this situation has the appearance of political expedience rather than a fair administration of justice.

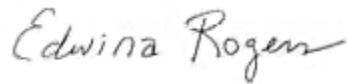
We also are highly concerned with the nature of the listed "offense." With two countervailing jurisprudences (Customary and Sharia), where the Customary Criminal code (§204) would call

for a maximum two-year sentence for purported violation, and the Sharia code (sections 110 and 382b) specifying a death sentence, at a minimum the State should uphold civil over religious law.

Ideally, we would ask for a full pardon and civil protection of the condemned. We appreciate that this issue is complex. But justice demands due process and the protection of individual's rights of expression.

We are requesting a meeting with Ambassador Adefuye to discuss how our organizations can be of assistance in protecting these fellow humans and their right to freedom of religion and expression.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edwina Rogers".

Edwina Rogers, CEO  
Cell +1 202 674 7800  
[edwina@secularpolicyinstitute.net](mailto:edwina@secularpolicyinstitute.net)