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August 3, 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.

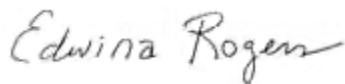
We also are highly concerned with the nature of the listed "offense." With two countervailing jurisprudences (Customary and Sharia), where the Customary Criminal code (§204) would call

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,



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Signatories

ARP Sociedad para el Avance del Pensamiento Crítico – Spain
The Association of Atheism, Turkey (Ateizm Dernegi) – Istanbul, Turkey
Atheist Alliance International – Washington, DC, USA
Atheist Association of Finland – Helsinki, Finland
Atheist Community of Rochester – Rochester, New York, USA
Atheist Foundation of Australia – New South Wales, New Zealand
Camp Quest – UK
Canadian Secular Alliance – Ontario, Canada
Centrum Humanistische Vorming – The Netherlands
CTC International Group, Inc. – West Palm Beach, Florida, USA
The Half-Moon Foundation – Ossining, New York, USA
The Evolution Institute – Wesley Chapel, Florida, USA
Filipino Freethinkers – The Philippines
Foundation for Critical Thinking – Tomales, California, USA
The Freethought Society – Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA
Hispanic American Freethinkers, Inc. – Reston, Virginia, USA
Houston Church of Freethought – Houston, Texas, USA
The Humanist Association of Toronto – Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Humanist Chaplaincy at American University – Washington, DC, USA
Humanist Society of Metropolitan New York – New York, New York, USA
Humanist Society of New Zealand – Wellington, New Zealand
Humanist Society of Redding – Redding, California, USA
Humanists and Atheists of Las Vegas (HALV) – Las Vegas, Nevada, USA

Humanists of North Central Florida – Florida, USA
Indian Rationalist Association – India
Kasese Humanist Primary School – Kasese, Uganda
Kasese United Humanist Association – Kasese, Uganda
Mistletoe Farms, LLC – Miami Beach, Florida, USA
Muslimish – Plymouth, Michigan, USA
National Secular Society – London, UK
New Zealand Association of Rationalists and Humanists – Auckland, New Zealand
North London Humanist Group – Hertfordshire, UK
Northern Ohio Freethought Society – Cleveland, Ohio, USA
Offutt Humanists – Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, USA
Omaha Coalition of Reason – Omaha, Nebraska, USA
Omaha Metro Area Humanist Association – Omaha, Nebraska, USA
Ontario Humanist Society – Ontario, Canada
PERUVIAN RATIONALIST HUMANISTS
Peruvian Rationalist Humanists – Peru
The Pink Triangle Trust – Kenilworth, UK
Rationalist International – Helsinki, Finland
Red River Freethinkers – Fargo, North Dakota, USA
Rossmoor Atheists and Agnostics – Walnut Creek, California, USA
San Francisco Atheists – San Francisco, California, USA
Sidmennt – The Icelandic Ethical Humanist Association – Reykjavík, Iceland
Union of Atheists of Russia and Ukraine – Russia
UnitedCoR – Washington, DC, USA
UCTAA (Universal Church Triumphant of the Apathetic Agnostic) – USA
Watford Area Humanists – Hertfordshire, UK