

CHRISTIAN LAWYERS FELLOWSHIP OF NIGERIA (CLASFON)
COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE PRESIDENT-IN-COUNCIL (PIC)
MEETING HELD FROM 12TH – 14TH JUNE 2025 AT ILORIN, KWARA STATE

The Christian Lawyers Fellowship of Nigeria (CLASFON), held its President-in-Council (PIC) meeting from 12th to 14th June 2025 at Ilorin, Kwara State. After prayerful deliberations and review of developments affecting the nation, the Fellowship hereby issues the following communiqué:

1.0 CONDOLENCE ON THE FLOOD DISASTER IN MOKWA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, NIGER STATE

- 1.1** CLASFON mourns the tragic loss of over 200 lives and the displacement of over 3,000 persons, following the devastating flood disaster that occurred in Mokwa Local Government Area, Niger State, on 29th May 2025. The disaster also left over 100 persons unaccounted for, and resulted in the destruction of critical infrastructure and properties valued in billions of naira.
- 1.2** The Fellowship deeply regrets the multidimensional impact of the disaster on the victims, their families, affected communities, the government and people of Niger State, and Nigeria at large. As a body of Christian legal professionals, CLASFON extends heartfelt condolences and identifies with all those directly And indirectly affected.
- 1.3** CLASFON appreciates the prompt intervention of the Niger State Government, the Federal Government, NGOs, and well-meaning individuals in providing relief to the victims and calls for sustained humanitarian support.
- 1.4** The Fellowship urges the relevant Federal and State agencies to develop and implement proactive and preventive disaster management policies; to protect lives and properties from similar future occurrences.
- 1.5** CLASFON prays that such tragedies do not re-occur and that God grants Nigeria and all her people peace, security, and divine protection in Jesus' name, amen.

2.0 ON THE STATE PARDON GRANTED TO 11 MURDER CONVICTS IN NIGER STATE

- 2.1** CLASFON expresses grave concern over the recent decision of His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Niger State to grant unconditional pardon to 11 individuals convicted of murder in connection with the communal clashes between Gaba and Amfani communities in Lavun Local Government Area.
 - 2.2** The pardon, announced through a press statement on 3rd June 2025, was reportedly granted as part of reconciliation efforts between the warring communities. However, CLASFON finds this action ill-advised, hasty, and lacking in fairness and transparency.
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- 2.3 While acknowledging the Governor's constitutional powers under Section 212 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended), CLASFON strongly believes the pardon was granted without due regard to justice, victims' rights, and broader security implications.
- 2.4 CLASFON raises the following concerns:
- (i) Victims' families, witnesses, and prosecutors were reportedly not consulted prior to the decision, which has already elicited strong opposition from affected communities.
 - (ii) All beneficiaries of the pardon are reportedly Muslims, whereas the victims were mostly Christians, thus giving the incident a worrisome religious coloration.
 - (iii) The decision is deemed premature, coming barely three years after the convicts were sentenced to death, and undermines the emotional recovery of the victims' families.
 - (iv) There is a clear danger to community peace, particularly regarding the safety of witnesses, prosecutors, and judges involved in the matter.
 - (v) The decision may demoralize judicial officers and security operatives who worked to secure the convictions.
 - (vi) Releasing the convicts back into the society without clear evidence of reformation and re-orientation portends more danger to the society, particularly the affected community.
- 2.5 CLASFON is of the considered view, that this decision is ill-advised, and therefore urges the Niger State Governor to **reconsider and withdraw** the pardon in the interest of peace, justice, security, and public trust. Future decisions of such magnitude must involve wide consultation with relevant stakeholders and be guided by fairness, equity, and national cohesion.
- 3.0 ON THE DECLARATION OF TWO-WEEK HOLIDAY FOR SCHOOLS IN KANO STATE
- 3.1 CLASFON condemns the two-week compulsory holiday declared by the Kano State Government for both public and private schools during the 2025 Sallah celebrations, affecting both Muslim and non-Muslim students and stakeholders.
- 3.2 While respecting the rights of Muslims to celebrate their religious festivals, CLASFON holds that this action, taken without due consultation, breaches the constitutional rights of non-Muslim citizens, particularly in a secular state as provided under Section 10 of the 1999 Constitution.
- 3.3 The Fellowship views this policy as not only discriminatory but also counterproductive to national educational development, especially in a region already grappling with poor educational indices and widespread insecurity.
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3.4 CLASFON therefore urges the Kano State Government and other similar states to review such policies, ensure inclusiveness and uphold constitutional values of secularism, fairness, and religious tolerance.

4.0 ON THE RESURGENCE OF BOKO HARAM, ETHNIC KILLINGS, AND GENERAL INSECURITY

4.1 CLASFON is deeply disturbed by the renewed activities of Boko Haram insurgents in the North East, ethnic killings in Plateau and Benue States, and widespread acts of terrorism, banditry, and kidnappings across the country.

4.2 Equally disturbing, are the increasing cases of military airstrikes mistakenly killing innocent civilians — including at least three documented incidents between December 2024 and June 2025 in Sokoto, Zamfara, and Rivers States.

4.3 CLASFON reiterates that every Nigerian life is sacred and worth the full might of the nation's military arsenal. The continued failure of the security architecture is evident in the scale of killings, kidnappings (including at least 63 Catholic priests), and community displacements.

4.4 CLASFON calls on the President and Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces to rejig the security architecture to make it more efficient. We also urge for urgent reforms and renewed commitment to national security, particularly in the North East, North Central, and North West regions.

CONCLUSION

CLASFON reaffirms its commitment to the rule of law, constitutionalism, human dignity, and the promotion of peace and justice across Nigeria. We call on all levels of government, civil society, and fellow citizens to rise to the occasion in ensuring that Nigeria becomes a secure, just, and inclusive nation for all.

**Issued this 14th day of June 2025
Ilorin, Kwara State**



**Femi David Ikotun Esq.
President**



**Enobong Akpan Esq.
National Secretary**