

**Letter of the Coalizão Negra por Direitos in support of the struggle of Nigerian youth.**

We, from the Coalizão Negra por Direitos, articulation composed of 150 organizations, groups, collectives and entities of the black movement and anti-racists from all over Brazil, show solidarity with the Nigerian people, especially with the youth, victim of police brutality.

SARS, a police force created in the 1984s with the justification of combating the serious public security crisis at the time, became a group with militia characteristics. Many of his agents are accused of involvement in kidnappings, rapes, torture and summary executions. According to a survey carried out by Amnesty International, the main victims of SARS actions are young people aged between 18 and 25 and people from the most socially vulnerable segments. However, the government never investigated such complaints, which contributed to the increase in violations of the rights of this population.

The covid-19 pandemic increased the brutality of SARS agents, which led the population, especially young people, its main victims, to demand the end of SARS and the investigation of crimes committed by members of this corporation.

The timid response from the government, which dissolved SARS, but created SWAT, a police group with similar characteristics to SARS and refused to investigate the charges against SARS agents, sparked a new wave of protests. Police forces and the ARMY, however, suppressed the demonstrations with extreme violence and killed dozens of protesters.

The government initially denied the deaths, but the medical reports and complaints from the protesters and relatives of the victims, in addition to the images posted on social networks, leave no doubt about the extent of the repression of government agents against those who justly called for an end to police violence.

The protesters remain mobilized, despite intense persecution of their leaders and demand an end to police brutality, the reorganization of the public security forces within the principles of respect and preservation of human rights and general reforms in the government structure.

We, Afro-descendant Brazilians, the fruits of those who resisted the violations, and horrors of the forced Diaspora, are in solidarity with the Nigerian people. We demand an end to police brutality and to build a pact of peace and justice within African civilizing values.

 **#BlackLivesMatter**

**#ENDSARS**

**#ENDSWAT**