Statement in Solidarity with the Nigerian people peacefully protesting to end police brutality and demanding justice

I stand in solidarity with the Nigerian people in their demand for justice and equitable reform in light of the continued use of state-sanctioned violence against citizens, including peaceful protestors.

In Nigeria, the impunity of the police force – especially the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) – has gone unchecked for years. Countless Nigerians are victims of brutal force, arbitrary arrests, intimidation, harassment, and extrajudicial killings at the hands of state forces. This violence has sparked weeks of massive, grassroots mobilizations by peaceful protestors across the country. This movement, under the banner of #EndSARS, has grown to not only demand an end to police brutality, but to also defend democracy and human rights for all Nigerians.

On October 20, the world watched in horror as the Nigerian government unleashed military forces on peaceful protestors at the Lekki Toll Gate in Lagos, killing and maiming harmless citizens. To cut short the lives of young people peacefully calling for a better future and freedom from state-sanctioned violence is a criminal act of inhumanity and a threat to democracy itself.

The righteous protests of young Nigerians mirror global uprisings in defense of Black lives. With a unified voice, people around the world are demanding justice, an end to police brutality, and respect for human rights for all.

I add my voice to the millions around the world demanding the right of Nigerians, and all people, to peacefully protest without fear of violence. I stand in solidarity with the Nigerian people in demanding equitable reform and justice for the violence unleashed in response to the peaceful #EndSARS protests.

Sincerely,

**Philip Alston**, Former UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial executions, United States of America

**Representative Earl Blumenauer**, Member of Congress, United States of America

**Dr. Kate Bronfenbrenner**, Cornell University, United States of America

**Fiona Dave**, Transnational Institute, The Netherlands
Léo Heller, Former UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water & sanitation, Brazil

Ro Khanna, United States of America

Representative Annie Kuster, Member of Congress, United States of America

Anne Le Strat, Former Deputy Mayor of Paris, France

Representative Tom Malinowski, Member of Congress, United States of America

Robert Monks, Edge Vantage, United States of America

Representative Eric Swalwell, Member of Congress, United States of America

Dr. Cornel West, Harvard University, United States of America