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October 23, 2020

TO: Our Nigeria Partners and Brethren

FROM: Dr. Ernest Uwazie, Director 

Dr. Jessie Gaston, Board Chair 

Dr. Michael Walker, Board Secretary 

RE: Do No Harm!

With a deep sense of concern and respect for the great country and hardworking people of Nigeria, the Center for African Peace and Conflict Resolution (CAPCR) appeals for a peaceful resolution to the ongoing protests and violence in Nigeria. We sincerely hope that this message will add value to similar voices of peace at home and abroad in contributing to the cessation of harm to lives and livelihoods. Any loss of life and injury is very concerning, especially when preventable.

In peace and compassion, we call for calm and restraint, especially at this challenging time of the COVID-19 ravages and revelations of vulnerability. We acknowledge that the right to peaceful protests and citizen participation is an essential human right and hallmark of democracy. We encourage the Nigerian government to engage in a good faith dialogue and confidence building measures with the protest leadership for conflict de-escalation and to ensure realization of her pronouncement of justice for victims of police brutality. We also acknowledge the vast potentiality of Nigeria's police and security agents to apply utmost professional quality of emotional intelligence and nonviolent crowd control skills in their response to the street protests, while ensuring accountability for any violations under the due process of law. Violence begets more violence!

We recognize that the Nigerian youth population are the true leaders of the future and unequivocally critical to the success of the Nigerian government's achievement of her Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Hence, there is mutual interest for seeking redress of grievances and charting the proper course for peace and prosperity of the people and nation. The CAPCR reaffirms its commitment of partnership with Nigerian leaders and civil society for the restoration and rebuilding of lives and livelihoods. In solidarity, we join our peace partners in Africa, particularly Nigeria, in resonant dissemination of peace responsive messaging, including the promotion of ethno-religious peaceful co-existence, in recognition of the country's diversity and intent to Do No Harm!



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