



Coalition For The Defense Of Sexual Rights

Our Rights Are Not Guaranteed Until EVERYONE'S Rights Are!

Press release
Minna, Niger state
Nigeria
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SEXUAL RIGHTS GROUP REINFORCES CONDEMNATION OF THE FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION (REGULATION) BILL 2013

Following the public hearing held at the National Assembly on Wednesday July 2 2014, the members of Coalition for the Defence of Sexual Rights (CDSR) wish to reinforce their condemnation of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Bill 2013 that seeks to create an embargo in the freedom of expression of the Nigerian Civil Society.

In solidarity with other Nigerian civil society organisations, we wish to echo that the Bill seeks to re-invent the wheel of provisions and responsibilities that are being adequately carried out by the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) and more worryingly, overwhelm the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commissions (ICPC), which is limited in technical capacity.

Moreover, “the Bill is a clear violation of the constitutionally guaranteed rights to freedom of association as guaranteed under the Constitution of Nigeria, 1999, and the provisions of articles 10(1) and 11 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights and additionally contradicts Nigeria’s several international treaty and protocol obligations”, the presentation of Nigerian Civil Society at the public hearing stated.

Furthermore, “it suffice to note that the Bill contravenes Nigerian’s obligation of the provision of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which had the country’s accession on 29 July 1993.”- Dorothy Aken’Ova of INCREASE said. Precisely, The ICCPR prohibits limiting the freedom of association, except when the limitations are prescribed by law and “are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, public order, the protection of public health or morals or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others”.

Our members are agitated that “in a country with a weak culture of philanthropy and poor understanding of sexual and reproductive rights relating to women, girls and LGBTI persons, of which we advocate, foreign money is essential to sustain our voices as a civil society” said Joseph Sewedo Akoro a member of the coalition. In addition, Mr. Ugoh Thaddeus who represented the coalition at the public hearing remarked, “the provisions of the Bill are retrogressive and will only escalate existing problems in the society.”

From the foregoing we recommend that lawmakers expend their energy in enacting laws that will facilitate the restructure of, rather than exacerbating, a failing system as currently existing in the power sector, health care sector and security: ensuring environment for sustainable development, justice and democracy in Nigeria.

Signed by:

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7. Changing Attitude in Nigeria
8. Development Aid International
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10. International Centre for Sexual Reproductive Rights
11. Leadership Initiative for Youth Empowerment
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