

# PRESS RELEASE

Dated 29 July, 2024, Abuja Nigeria.

## CSO, SOAI Sets Up Observatory and Communications Room To Monitor, Track and Report #EndBadGovernance Protests Activities for Accountability and Proper Documentation.

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*... release dedicated phone lines and online real-time reporting platforms as well as emergency legal & medical first aid support assistance to Nigerians.*

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### Introduction:

In the build up to the August 01-10, 2024 planned **#EndBadGovernanceInNigeria** protest, a leading civil society organization (CSO) in Nigeria, Speak Out Africa Initiative (SOAI) has established a **Citizen's Observatory and Communication Room (PRO-COM)** to Monitor, Track, and Report the protests activities for the purpose of accountability and adequate documentation in line with international best practices.

This initiative is crucial in the current climate, where despite significant attempts to abort the peaceful planned protest, the planners have insisted to exercise their constitutional right as Nigerian citizens thereby, reaffirming their intention to hold the protest across 36 states and the FCT Abuja. Hence, the dire need to provide a viable platform to track and report incidences during the protest to ensure both sides did not cross the lines. This is against the background of alleged statements perceived as a threat, dissuading the youth from participating in the protest and counter allegation.

### Objectives of the Citizen's Observatory and Communications Room:

- Monitor and Track Abuses and Confrontations including police attacks, human rights abuses, sponsored counter-protests, and indiscriminate arrests.
- Escalate Issues to Appropriate Authorities ensuring that abuses and violations are brought to the attention of both national and international bodies/community.
- Provide Real-time Reporting, offering an objective and unbiased citizen perspective to counter potential propaganda.
- Engage the Public and International Community, highlighting emerging issues and providing updates on the protest's developments.

## **Components of the Citizen's Observatory and Communications Room:**

- o. Surveillance and Monitoring Systems: Live streaming to cover key protest areas capturing crowd movements and any acts of violence or misconduct.
- o. Communication and Reporting Infrastructure: Dedicated phone lines and online platforms for real-time reporting by protest participants and observers including a central database to log and document all reported incidents for analysis and dissemination.
- o. Set-Up Legal and Emergency Response Teams comprising legal experts to provide immediate assistance and advice to those arrested or facing legal challenges as well as emergency medical response teams to attend to injured protestors and/or take to nearby hospitals when need arise.
- o. Media and Advocacy Unit, to create and distribute press releases, social media updates, and engage with media to ensure accurate coverage, producing advocacy materials and documentation to highlight protest activities and human rights violations.

Thank you and God Bless Federal Republic of Nigeria.

### **For media/Observatory reporting, please contact:**

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