



## **PRESS STATEMENT**

November 30, 2017

### **Slave Trade: CHRICED Demands Expulsion of Libya from African Union**

- **Calls On FG to Adopt Preventative Strategies to Halt Illegal Migration**

The Resource Centre for Human Rights & Civic Education (CHRICED) calls on the Federal Government to use all available diplomatic channels to push for the expulsion of Libya from the African Union over the sale of Africans, including Nigerian migrants as slaves. This decisive step becomes necessary as a way of sending a strong and clear message to the Libyan authorities that the rest of Africa will no longer tolerate the degrading and dehumanizing treatment of Africans on their own continent. We call on Nigeria to lead these efforts in demonstrating the anger of an entire continent to these shocking crimes against the black man because Nigeria, in spite of its challenges remains the leader of the black race.

It is disturbing and shocking beyond description to see online videos making the rounds, showing how African, including Nigerians are being auctioned in scenes reminiscent of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, which displaced millions of Africans. CHRICED calls on Nigeria to endlessly pressure the authorities in Libya until these crimes are investigated and the perpetrators brought to book. It is abundantly clear to us that if Nigeria does not express sufficient outrage against these crimes against its citizens, it would have become complicit by virtue of its silence.

It is our considered view that the Nigerian Constitution, as well as a plethora of international human rights instruments have conferred on Nigeria and the international community, the responsibility to act against these egregious violation of human rights. Specifically, the 1999 Constitution as amended provides in Section 17(2b) that the sanctity of the human person shall be recognized and human dignity shall be maintained and enhanced." Similarly, Section 34(1) also makes it clear that every individual is entitled to respect for the dignity of his person, and accordingly-

- (a) no person shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment;
- (b) no person shall be held in slavery or servitude; and
- (c) no person shall be required to perform forced or compulsory labour.

It is therefore our considered view that the Nigerian government would be undermining its own constitution, if it does not act decisively to stop the inhumane treatment of its citizens and other Africans in Libya.

More importantly, CHRICED calls on the Nigerian State to adopt preventative strategies to stem the tide of illegal migration, which is the root cause of some of the shocking abuses Nigerian citizens are being subjected to. The victims of these abuses are desperate to leave the country because of several social economic injustices, including the lack of employment. Government can begin addressing this problem by creating more economic opportunities,

through creative interventions, including public works programmes which would put the youth in gainful employment. Government also has a responsibility to massively educate and enlighten young people on the dangers of some of these perilous voyages in the desperate search for pastures that may actually be nothing more than a path of no return.

Long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!

Signed:

**Comrade Dr. Ibrahim M. Zikirullahi**  
*Executive Director*