



**EKITI STATE UNIVERSITY**  
2018 FACULTY OF LAW SET

✉ eksu.law.2018@gmail.com  
☎ 08036479363  
07030104362

17<sup>th</sup> September 2024

**THE PRESIDENT**  
**NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (NBA),**  
NBA House, Plot 1101,  
Mohammadu Buhari Way,  
Central Business District,  
FCT Abuja.



**CC:**

1. *The Chairman, NBA, Sagbama Branch*
2. *The Chairman, NBA, Yenagoa Branch*
3. *The Attorney-General of the Federation, Federal Ministry of Justice*
4. *The Inspector-General of Police, Force Headquarters*
5. *The Commissioner of Police, Bayelsa State Police Command*

Dear Mr. President,

**URGENT PETITION SEEKING JUSTICE FOR THE BRUTAL MURDER OF JEREMIAH JERIANO CHUKWU, ESQ**

We, the classmates of late *Jeremiah Jeriano Chukwu, Esq.* ("Jeremiah"), of Ekiti State University, LL.B Class of 2018, write this petition with deep sorrow and profound grief, seeking your immediate intervention in ensuring that justice is swiftly served in the heinous murder of our dear friend and colleague.

On or about the 14<sup>th</sup> of September 2024, Jeremiah's promising life was allegedly cut short by some of his neighbours in Bayelsa State over a yet-to-be-confirmed allegation. The shock and devastation caused by his brutal and untimely demise have rippled through his family, colleagues and the wider legal community. **We can no longer remain silent in the face of this injustice.**

Jeremiah was not just any lawyer; he was a highly esteemed member of the NBA Sagbama Branch, Bayelsa State. In his lifetime, he quickly rose to the position of Head of Chambers at Ace & Ark LLP due to his brilliance, diligence, work ethic, positive attitude, and warm personality. Although young, he had already earned a reputation as an outstanding advocate, particularly in criminal litigation across Bayelsa State. His commitment to the legal profession was unwavering, as exemplified by his exemplary service as the Welfare Secretary of the Young Lawyers Forum (YLF) in his local NBA branch, where he earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues.

**REPRESENTATIVES**

ISRAEL OLAWUNMI - PRESIDENT // AJEWOLE DAMILOLA - ALT-PRESIDENT // ADEUSI ANTHONY KAY - SECRETARY // AYOTOMIWA APUABI - TREASURER  
ADETAYO AWE - PUBLICITY SECRETARY // IKHANOBA AMINAT MOTHERLINE - WELFARE SECRETARY // OLUWATOYIN OMOLEYE - EVENTS COORDINATOR



The senseless murder of such a bright and promising attorney has not only left a void in the hearts of his family, friends, and colleagues but has also created a significant gap in the legal community. More alarming is the growing trend of violent attacks on lawyers in Nigeria, a disturbing development that threatens the safety and integrity of the legal profession. If this escalating crisis is not urgently addressed, it could have catastrophic consequences, leaving lawyers even more vulnerable. The surge in brutal attacks on legal practitioners demands immediate action, lest more lives be lost.

While we have been informed that two of the alleged perpetrators have been apprehended, we strongly appeal to you, Mr. President, and all copied parties, to ensure that these assailants—and any accomplices—face the full weight of justice. This is not just about seeking justice for Jeremiah; it is about sending a clear message that such violent acts against members of our profession, and indeed any citizen of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, will not be tolerated.

In the words of the reputed Justice Oputa, JSC, in **JOSIAH V. STATE [1985] 1 NWLR (Pt.1) 125:**

***“Justice...is really a three-way traffic...justice for the appellant accused of a heinous crime of murder; justice for the victim, the murdered man, the deceased, 'whose blood is crying out to heaven for vengeance' and finally, justice for the society at large—the society whose social norms and values had been desecrated and broken by the criminal act complained of.”***

This evergreen dictum applies in all respects to Jeremiah's case. Justice must prevail, not just for Jeremiah but for society as a whole, whose norms and values have been desecrated by this criminal act. It is imperative that justice is served swiftly, not only to honor the memory of our dear friend and colleague but also to protect society from further degradation. Deterrence is crucial to ensuring that legal professionals can continue their work without fear for their personal safety. **Today, it is Jeremiah; tomorrow, it could be any one of us.**

The right to life is the most fundamental of all rights. It must not be taken lightly, and those involved in any unlawful or immoral act of violence must face appropriate punitive measures. We write this petition with deep sorrow, trusting that you will give it the urgent and favorable attention it deserves. We are prepared to provide any necessary support to ensure that this cause is pursued to its logical and just conclusion.



Like John the Baptist in the wilderness, we entreat you to ensure that justice is not only done but is seen (by us and the Nigerian society) to be done—for Jeremiah, for society, and for the legal profession. As Lord Chief Justice Hewart famously remarked in *R v. Sussex Justices; Ex parte McCarthy* [1924] 1 KB 256, 259: “**Justice should not only be done but should manifestly and undoubtedly be seen to be done.**” This, we strongly plead in Jeremiah’s case.

### **CALL TO ACTION:**

In light of the brutal murder of *Jeremiah Jeriano Chukwu, Esq.*, we respectfully call on all parties addressed in this petition to urgently prioritize justice in this matter and take decisive actions to prevent future occurrences of violence against members of the legal profession. This is not only a call for justice for Jeremiah, but a crucial moment to reaffirm the safety and dignity of lawyers in Nigeria.

#### **—To the President, Nigerian Bar Association (NBA):**

We request that you use the influence of your office to actively monitor the investigation and prosecution of the perpetrators involved in Jeremiah’s murder. We also urge the NBA to set up a legal task force to ensure due process and timely justice.

#### **—To the Chairmen, NBA Yenagoa and Sagbama Branches:**

We urge you to provide local leadership in seeking justice for your fallen member and colleague and to work closely with law enforcement and the prosecutors to ensure swift and decisive action.

#### **—To the Attorney-General of the Federation:**

We respectfully call on you to oversee the legal process and ensure the necessary prosecutorial attention is devoted to this case. Your leadership in guiding and expediting this matter will be pivotal in setting a strong example that the law applies equally to all and that crimes against lawyers will not be tolerated in any form.

#### **—To the Inspector-General of Police:**

We request your immediate intervention in ensuring a thorough and transparent investigation into this matter. We pray that you release necessary signals/orders and give life to necessary task force that will ensure the apprehension of all suspects, their prosecution, and regular updates to us and the legal community, restoring public confidence in law enforcement’s ability to protect legal professionals and bring offenders to justice.

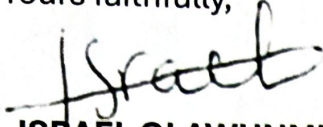


**—To the Commissioner of Police, Bayelsa State Police Command:**

We call on you to personally oversee the investigation at the state level, ensuring that no effort is spared in apprehending and prosecuting all those responsible.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We await your prompt and favorable response and updates on this matter.

Yours faithfully,



**ISRAEL OLAWUNMI, ESQ.**  
PRESIDENT



**ADEUSI ANTHONY KAY, ESQ.**  
SECRETARY

**CC:**

1. **THE CHAIRMAN,**  
**NBA, Sagbama Branch**  
**Multi Door Court Complex**  
**Ovom, Yenagoa,**  
**Bayelsa State.**

2. **THE CHAIRMAN,**  
**NBA, Yenagoa Branch,**  
**Yenagoa,**  
**Bayelsa State.**

3. **THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL OF THE FEDERATION,**  
**Federal Ministry of Justice**  
**Plot 71B**  
**Shehu Shagari Way,**  
**Maitama, Abuja**

4. **THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF POLICE,**  
**The Nigeria Police Force**  
**Force Headquarters,**  
**Louis Edet House, Area 11,**  
**FCT Abuja.**

5. **THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE,**  
**BAYELSA STATE POLICE COMMAND**  
**Yenagoa,**  
**Bayelsa State.**

