

**His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Kano State,
Dr Abdullahi Ganduje (OFR)**

6 September 2020

Re. Yahaya Sharif-Aminu

Your Excellency,

We, the undersigned, speak on behalf of the following ten national and international representative organisations in the field of music and artistic freedom: *European Music Council (EMC)*, *Finnish Music Council*, *Finnish Musicians Union (SML)*, *Freemuse*, *International Federation of Actors (FIA)*, *International Federation of Musicians (FIM)*, *International Music Council (IMC)*, *Nordic Musicians Union (NMU)*, *Artists at Risk / Perpetuum Mobile*, *Safemuse*.

We wish to express our deepest concern regarding the situation of young Nigerian musician Yahaya Sharif-Aminu, who has been sentenced to death by a Sharia court in Kano State, for blasphemy against Prophet Mohammed. According to our information, he will be executed by hanging in less than seven days from today, unless charges are dropped or the sentence is overruled.

This court decision is clearly in breach of sections 38 (protecting freedom of thought, conscience and religion) and 39 (protecting freedom of expression) of the Nigerian Constitution. The application of the death penalty also violates Nigeria's international obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) to which it is a party.

Considering the above, we urge you to use your influence to make sure that the rights of Yahaya Sharif-Aminu under the Nigerian Constitution are fully respected and that all charges against him are dropped.

Yours respectfully,

Sanni Kahilainen
President, Finnish Music Council




Ahti Vääntinen
President, SML



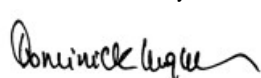
Ian Smith
President, EMC



Sverre Pedersen
Campaigns manager, Freemuse



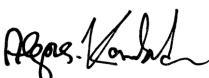
Dominick Luquer
General Secretary, FIA



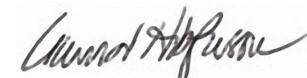
Benoît Machuel
General Secretary, FIM



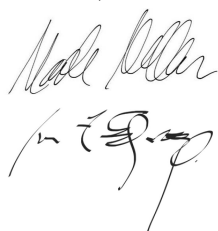
Alfons Karabuda
President, IMC



Gunnar Hrnasson
Chairman, NMU



Marita Muukkonen, Ivor Stodolsky
Directors, Artists at Risk / PM



Jan Lothe Eriksen
General Manager, Safemuse

