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**International Centre for Trade Union Right**

*Centro Internacional para los Derechos Sindical  
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ICTUR was founded  
to defend and extend trade union right  
and to raise awareness of these right  
and their violations around the world

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**Attn:** Muhammadu Buhari, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,  
The Statehouse, Yakubu Gowon Crescent, The Three Arms Zone,  
Asokoro, Abuja

**CC:**

Abubakar Malami, Minister of Justice

Peter Izevbuwa Ozo-Eson, General Secretary, Nigeria Labour Congress

John Odah, General Secretary, Organisation of Trade Unions of West Africa

**NOVEMBER 2017**

Dear President Muhammadu Buhari,

The International Centre for Trade Union Rights is writing to express its concerns about the murder of a trade unionist in Kogi State on 1 November.

ICTUR understands that Mallam Abdulmumini Yakubu, Chairman of the Kogi State branch of the Non-Academic Staff Union of Secondary Schools (NASU) at the Science and Technology Education Board (STEB), has been murdered by unknown gunmen. Yakubu and a person visiting him at the time, Mallam Ibrahim Otaru, were both shot and killed at Yakubu's home by a group of armed men. According to media reports, local police are investigating the killings, and claim to have leads they are following. However, ICTUR notes the gravity of the situation, and wishes to remind the government of its obligations under the International Labour Organisation's fundamental Conventions, which Nigeria has ratified.

Concerning the right to life, security and the physical and moral integrity of the person, the ILO's Committee on Freedom of Association has declared that an independent judicial inquiry should be instituted immediately to investigate assaults on the physical or moral integrity of individuals, in order to determine responsibility, punish those responsible and prevent repetition (*Digest of decisions and principles of the Freedom of Association Committee of the Governing Body of the ILO*, Fifth Edition, 2006, paras. 46, 50, 184, 191). The killing of trade unionists requires the "institution of independent judicial inquiries in order to shed full light, at the earliest date, on the facts and the circumstances in which such actions occurred and in this way, to the

extent possible, determine where responsibilities lie, punish the guilty parties and prevent the repetition of similar events.” Failure to hold guilty parties to account creates a culture of impunity, “which reinforces the climate of violence and insecurity, and which is extremely damaging to the exercise of trade union rights” (ILO Digest, paras. 42-44, 46, 48 and 52).

ICTUR therefore calls on the government to promptly investigate this case, and to ensure that full and proper procedures are applied, and that the guilty parties are identified and brought to justice.

ICTUR will report this case in the journal International Union Rights, which was established in 1993, and which enjoys a readership in more than 100 countries.

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Blackburn', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Daniel Blackburn, Director