

JUDICIAL PANELS OF INQUIRY: LAWYERS ALERT'S INTERVENTION IN ABIA STATE

Upon the approval to constitute Judicial Panels of inquiry to investigate the events that led to the #ENDSARS protests that took place in 2020 in Nigeria and the human rights abuses on citizens by security operatives; the National Human Rights Commission's Executive Secretary, Mr. Anthony O. Ojukwu constituted the said Panels in 32 States of the Federation.

As its modest contribution to the promotion and protection of the rights of women in Nigeria, Lawyers Alert took up the representation for some women before some of the 32 Judicial Panels of Inquiry in Nigeria *pro bono*.

In Abia State, a state situate in the South Eastern part of Nigeria Lawyers Alert represented a total of five women. The representation started with a debriefing meeting with the women where issues of assault, battery, unlawful arrest, the disappearance of arrested persons, and even murder were reported. Following this, processes were prepared and filed before the Panel of Inquiry. The sitting of the Panel lasted about seven months (11/11/2020 to 13/04/2021).

The recommendations of the Panel on these cases shall be out in due course. In the meantime, our gratitude goes to our partner, Ms. Ngozi Ukwani who made sure that Lawyers Alert impacted the lives of these women by giving utmost attention to the cases reported without any charge to these women.