

Kano State Attorney General & Commissioner for Justice  
Haruna Isa Dederi  
Kano State Ministry of Justice  
Audu Baka Secretariat Kano  
15, Club Road, P.M.B. 3352  
Kano  
NIGERIA

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*Place, date*

**Please release Yahaya Sheriff-Aminu immediately and unconditionally!**

Dear Attorney General,

I am writing in grave concern for the life of singer **Yahaya Sheriff-Aminu**. On 10 August 2020, an Upper Sharia Court in Kano state convicted and sentenced to death Yahaya Sheriff-Aminu of “blasphemy” for circulating a song on WhatsApp that was considered blasphemous against Prophet Muhammad. In January 2021, a High Court in Kano State overturned Yahaya Sheriff-Aminu’s conviction and ordered his case to be retried due to irregularities in the original trial.

In November 2022, Yahaya Sharif-Aminu’s lawyers filed an appeal with the Supreme Court of Nigeria. The date for the hearing has yet to be fixed. In the meantime, Yahaya Sheriff-Aminu remains held in detention, pending his appeal before the Supreme Court.

In March 2024, Amnesty International visited Yahaya Sheriff-Aminu in detention and found him in poor health, lacking medication, food and adequate clothing. In November 2024, Amnesty International visited Yahaya Sharif-Aminu again and, although he is recuperating due to medications supplied to him by his family, when possible, he still requires regular access to his medications which is not currently being adequately provided for.

Blasphemy laws are a violation of the right to freedom of expression. Additionally, the use of the death penalty for “blasphemy” violates Nigeria’s obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which restricts the use of this punishment to the “most serious crimes”, which refers to intentional killing.

**I urge you to drop the charges against Yahaya Aminu Sheriff to ensure his immediate and unconditional release and work towards securing the timely setting of a date for appeal hearing. In the meantime, he must be held in detention conditions that conform to international standards (as per the Mandela Rules) and be granted immediate access to adequate health care, as well as adequate food and clothing.**

Yours sincerely,

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*Signature*

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*First Name, Surname*

Die Teilnahme ist ab einem Alter von 16 Jahren möglich.  
Amnesty International übermittelt Petitionsdaten nicht nur an sichere Drittstaaten. Eine Liste der sicheren Drittstaaten findest du auf [www.amnesty.at/drittstaaten](http://www.amnesty.at/drittstaaten). Mit deiner Teilnahme willigst du ausdrücklich ein, dass eine Übermittlung deiner Namensdaten in das im Petitionstext genannte Land erfolgt, auch wenn dies ein unsicherer Drittstaat ist. Detaillierte Datenschutz-Informationen sind transparent in unserem Datenschutzhinweis zu finden ([amnesty.at/datenschutz](http://amnesty.at/datenschutz)).