Gouverneur

Abdullahi Umar Ganduje

Office of the Governor

Government House

Kano

Kano State

NIGERIA

20.09.2020

Dear Governor,

with great concern I learned of the impending execution of the singer Yahaya Sharif-Aminu.

In February 2020 the singer had composed a song that is said to contain derogatory comments against the Prophet Mohammed. He was arrested in March.

There are serious doubts about the fairness of the trial and the basis of the charges against Yahaya Sharif-Aminu. Further, he was denied access to legal counsel before and during the trial. Only after human rights lawyers and activists urged the court to grant Yahaya Sharif-Aminu the right to legal counsel, the authorities complied. So only in the end he was able to appeal the judgment.

Taken together, I urge you to refrain from signing the execution order for Yahaya Sharif-Aminu.

Please release Yahaya Sharif-Aminu immediately and unconditionally.

Sincerely