



ASSOCIATION OF AAU LAW CLASS OF 2003/2004

CAC/IT/NO/151990

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PRESS STATEMENT BY THE AMBROSE ALLI UNIVERSITY (AAU) LAW CLASS OF 2003/2004 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ON THE ALLEGED UNLAWFUL ARREST, INHUMANE DEGRADATION, HUMILIATION, DETENTION AND INTIMIDATION OF MR. SIMON EROMOSELE, ESQ. AND THE ALLEGED COMPLICITY OF OPAY DIGITAL SERVICES LIMITED

The Ambrose Alli University Law Class of 2003/2004 Alumni Association expresses its strongest condemnation of the reported unlawful arrest, degrading treatment, detention and intimidation of our distinguished classmate and member, on the 14th of August 2026 in Jabi District, Abuja at the Federal Capital Territory, by officers of the Nigeria Police Force, *and the alleged complicity of OPay Digital Services Limited*, while he was lawfully performing his professional duties as a legal practitioner.

According to the account provided to the Association,

Mr. Simon Eromesele, Esq. visited the OPay Office, Jabi, Abuja, solely to follow up on a formal legal letter dated 13 July 2026 written on behalf of his client requesting the legal basis upon which restrictions had been placed on the client's bank accounts after the financial institution had failed to respond to the correspondence.

Rather than being received by the institution's Legal Department as earlier indicated by customer service officials, Mr. Eromesele was allegedly confronted by a plain-clothes police officer *present within OPay's premises*, publicly informed that he was under arrest, handcuffed before members of the public and taken away in a commercial taxi to Utako Police Station, Abuja, where he was processed like a common criminal despite identifying himself as a legal practitioner and producing his Nigerian Bar Association identity card. *The Association notes with grave concern that this arrest occurred on the premises of OPay, after Mr Eromesele had duly identified himself and the purpose of his visit as legal counsel acting for his client.*

At Utako Police Station, he was allegedly compelled to surrender his personal belongings, remove his shoes, belt, shirt and trousers, and was locked inside a police detention cell for

approximately one hour and thirty minutes before being transferred, again in handcuffs, to the Monitoring Unit, Force Headquarters, Abuja.

The Association is particularly disturbed by the alleged conduct of DSP Adamu Bulangu of the Police Monitoring Unit. According to Mr Eromosele's account, DSP Bulangu accused him of interfering with an ongoing police investigation merely because he had written a professional legal letter on behalf of his client to OPay. He allegedly shouted at him, questioned his authority to represent his client, demanded that he produce his client before he could regain his freedom, and sought to criminalise the ordinary discharge of a lawyer's constitutional and professional responsibilities.

More alarming are the allegations concerning Mr Eromosele's mobile telephone. It is alleged that after permitting him to briefly access his phone to retrieve information needed for his statement, DSP Adamu Bulangu returned, forcibly seized the device, accessed his private WhatsApp conversations without lawful authority or judicial authorization, accused him of informing fellow lawyers of his ordeal, declared that "the lawyers you are contacting cannot do anything," and personally deleted several WhatsApp messages that Mr. Eromosele had sent to members of the Nigerian Bar Association seeking urgent legal assistance before those messages could be delivered. If established, these allegations represent an extraordinarily serious abuse of police authority and an unlawful interference with private communications, legal professional privilege and constitutional rights.

The alleged conduct did not end there. Despite the intervention of Mr. Michael Ochili, Esq., Publicity Secretary of the Nigerian Bar Association, Abuja Branch, who reportedly attended the Police Monitoring Unit to seek his release, Mr. Eromosele was allegedly denied bail, handcuffed once again and transported in a police vehicle to the SARS Detention Facility, Abuja, where he remained in detention until approximately 10:00 p.m. that night, before eventually being returned to Force Headquarters and released on self-recognition after sustained intervention by members of the legal profession.

These allegations, if proven, paint a deeply disturbing picture of the abuse of police powers *and corporate complicity*. A lawyer carrying out his professional responsibility to represent a client should never be subjected to public humiliation, repeated handcuffing, arbitrary detention, intimidation, invasion of privacy, confiscation of personal property or interference with privileged communications simply because he discharged his professional obligations. *That this occurred within the premises of a regulated financial institution raises serious questions regarding OPay's role, responsibility, and duty of care to persons lawfully engaging with the institution.*

The independence of the legal profession is one of the pillars upon which constitutional democracy rests. Lawyers must be able to represent clients fearlessly and independently

without intimidation from any authority, *whether state or corporate*. Criminalising legitimate legal representation strikes at the heart of access to justice and the rule of law.

Accordingly, the Ambrose Alli University Law Class of 2003/2004 Alumni Association demands that the Nigeria Police Force immediately take the following actions:

1. Institute an immediate, independent and transparent disciplinary investigation into the conduct of DSP Adamu Bulangu and every other police officer involved in the arrest, detention and treatment of Mr Simon Eromosele, Esq.
2. Immediately remove DSP Adamu Bulangu from operational investigative duties pending the conclusion of disciplinary and criminal investigations into these allegations.
3. Investigate the alleged unauthorised seizure of Mr Eromosele's mobile phone, unlawful access to confidential WhatsApp communications, deletion of electronic messages, intimidation and interference with legally privileged communications, and where established, prosecute every officer responsible in accordance with Nigerian law.
4. Investigate the circumstances surrounding the decision to arrest, publicly handcuff, transport and detain a legal practitioner who was carrying out a lawful professional engagement, and identify every officer who authorised or participated in those actions.
5. Publicly disclose the outcome of the disciplinary proceedings and ensure that any officer found to have abused police powers is subjected to appropriate disciplinary sanctions, including suspension, dismissal where warranted, and prosecution if criminal offences are disclosed.
6. Issue an official apology to Mr Simon Eromosele, Esq. should the allegations be substantiated.
7. That this demand should be implemented within 14 working days and failing which, the Association shall commence legal action both within Nigeria and at the international legal space.

The Association further demands that OPay Digital Services Limited:

- a. *Conduct an immediate internal investigation into the circumstances that led to the arrest of a legal practitioner on its premises while discharging lawful professional duties;*
- b. *Publish the outcome of its investigation into the arrest of Mr Eromosele.*
- b. *Publicly state its policy regarding the involvement of law enforcement against customers' legal representatives; and*

c. Issue an unreserved apology to Mr. Eromosele, Esq. and put measures in place to ensure lawyers are not obstructed or exposed to arrest while engaging with the institution on behalf of clients.

7. That this demand should be implemented within 14 working days and failing which, the Association shall commence legal action both within Nigeria and at the international legal space.

We equally call upon the Inspector-General of Police, the Police Service Commission, the National Human Rights Commission, the Central Bank of Nigeria, and the Nigerian Bar Association to closely monitor this matter and ensure that every allegation is investigated impartially, transparently and in accordance with the Constitution and the law.

This Association wishes to make it abundantly clear that this statement is not intended to obstruct or prejudice any legitimate criminal investigation. Rather, it is a call for accountability and respect for constitutional safeguards. Every investigation undertaken by law enforcement agencies must itself be conducted within the confines of the law.

No democratic society can flourish where lawyers are intimidated for representing clients, where privileged communications are allegedly accessed and deleted by investigators, or where professional advocacy becomes a basis for arrest and detention.

The Ambrose Alli University Law Class of 2003/2004 Alumni Association stands firmly with our colleague, Mr Simon Erom0sele, Esq., and with every legal practitioner who courageously upholds the rule of law. We shall continue to monitor this matter and support every lawful effort aimed at ensuring that justice is done and that public confidence in the administration of justice is preserved.

An injury to one member of the legal profession is an injury to the administration of justice itself.

Justice must not only be done; it must be seen to be done. The rule of law remains the bedrock of every democratic society, and no lawyer should be punished for performing his professional duty.

To be forewarned is to be forearmed.

Dated this 20th Day of August 2026.

Signed by the following members of the Association:

Obakpolor Andrew ..

Andrew Obakpolor Esq.

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Ambrose Alli University Law Class of 2003/2004 Alumni Association

Iyamu-Ojo Elizabeth

Elizabeth A. Iyamu-Ojo PhD

General Secretary

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