



CENTER FOR LIBERTY
...All for Human Rights

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(CENTER FOR ADVANCEMENT OF CIVIL LIBERTIES AND DEVELOPMENT)

Citizen Memo

#InternetNoBeEnemy

To: Sen. Ahmad Lawan (sample);

CC: Sen. Michael Opeyemi Bamidele, Chair, Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights & Legal Matters;

The Clerk, Senate Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters.

COVID-19 Lessons: Time to End S.B. 132 (Internet Falsehood and Manipulation Bill)

“As the government of China attempted to respond to the outbreak, it also worked to control what information on the disease was available online and in the media... When eight individuals (at least two of which were medical experts, including Dr. Li Wenliang) tried to warn the public of the then mysterious outbreak (via the social media) on December 30, 2019, they were silenced and punished by local authorities in Wuhan for “spreading rumors” and “disturbing social order.” The Citizen Lab - <https://citizenlab.ca/2020/03/censored-contagion-how-information-on-the-coronavirus-is-managed-on-chinese-social-media/>

“Some Chinese citizens, however, posted their concerns on social media which were later taken down. This then led to a hashtag which was used in more than 2 million posts; #WomenYaoYanlunZiyou which means “We want freedom of expression.” - CFL findings.

Greetings distinguished,

I trust you and the entire members of the 9th National Assembly are keeping safe.

As a conscious and enlightened citizen of the Republic of Nigeria, whose rights are guaranteed under the 1999 Constitution (as amended), I am writing you this solemn petition, asking you to **immediately withdraw the Internet Falsehood and Manipulation Bill** because:

- 1. It has been overwhelmingly rejected by Nigerians at the S.B.132 Public Hearing of March 9, 2020 – sovereignty belongs to the people.**
- 2. Lessons from China is daunting on how internet censorship had prevented global alert on COVID-19 – hundreds of Nigerians, hundreds of thousands globally, have died.**
- 3. A threat to democracy – it undermines our democracy and constitution.**

As pressure continues to mount for global sanctions against China for concealing information (including internet censorship) on the outbreak of the Coronavirus, I believe there are sufficient reasons for you to kill this bill and avoid a future contemplation on any such proposed legislation that tends to censor the internet.

For Democracy, Social Justice and our collective wellbeing.

Name

Nigerian Citizen