

News Release

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CANADA CONDEMNS EXECUTIONS IN NIGERIA

The Honourable Christine Stewart, Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa), today made the following statement in Auckland, New Zealand:

"I have just learned of the executions of Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other representatives of the Ogoni Peoples. Canada condemns in the strongest possible terms this action by Nigerian authorities.

"All Canadians are outraged by this travesty of justice. The fact that these executions were carried out during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting shows contempt and utter disregard for the institution of the Commonwealth.

"The action also flies in the face of international opinion and basic justice.

"Canada has written to the Nigerian foreign minister and issued a number of statements over the past four months expressing concern over the delay in return to democracy in Nigeria. This will not end here.

"Our condolences go out to the families of Ken Saro-Wiwa and the other victims of this terrible tragedy. Canada and the Commonwealth will not allow such provocative actions on the part of the Government of Nigeria to go unnoticed. This topic will be a focus in today's discussions by Commonwealth leaders. The people of Nigeria should know that Canada believes they should benefit from past democratic activities and the socio-economic advantages their country has to offer."

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