

TOOLKIT TO MARK THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE MURDER OF DEBORAH EMMANUEL AND THE ARBITRARY DETENTION OF RHODA JATAU

On occasion of the International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief on the 22nd August we are over 30 individuals and organisations expressing our grave concern that - since the brutal murder by Muslim male classmates of Nigerian university student Deborah Yakubu (Emmanuel) for alleged blasphemy in 2022 on May 12th - none of the perpetrators of the violence against her have been held accountable, even though it was documented on film and live streamed.

The male classmates of Deborah [filmed](#) as they stoned Deborah to death and set her on fire because they accused her of committing blasphemy against the Prophet Muhammad.

Eyewitnesses explained there were police surrounding the area but they did not intervene and made no arrests.

Since the anniversary of Deborah's death only two people have been arrested, and that was under bailable offenses. The two men have since been released.

At the same time, on May 20th 2022, authorities in Bauchi state arbitrarily detained Rhoda Jatau for sharing a video on Whatsapp condemning the lynching of Deborah for 19 months before she was released on bail and eventually acquitted.

Read more about Deborah here:

- <https://forbwomen.org/uncategorized/deborah-yakubu-know-her-name/>
- <https://www.amnesty.org.ng/2022/05/12/nigeria-authorities-must-arrest-the-attackers-of-the-female-student-killed-on-alleged-blasphemy/>
-

How can I help?

Send a [letter](#) to your Representative in parliament or a [letter](#) to the Embassy of Nigeria in your country.

Take a picture outside your postbox or outside the Nigerian [Embassy](#).

Tag @officialABAT on x and the Foreign Minister of your home country.

You can use the following hashtags:

#JusticeforDeborah2026 #JusticeforDeborah #StopKillingintheNameofGod #endblasphemylaws
#nodeathpenalty

—

Share her story on social media.

Call for the end of anti-apostasy and blasphemy laws

Here are some articles/ books you can link to:

- https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FjfiV-NByDTCeU_sBaqXFqEu77DI1C23xRB/BieMUPSG/edit?tab=t.0
- <https://forbwomen.org/uncategorized/deborah-yakubu-know-her-name/>
- <https://guardian.ng/news/nigeria/metro/four-years-after-deborahs-killing-group-demands-renewed-investigation-prosecution/>

Sample tweets:

Targeting people because of their religion or beliefs is a grave violation of human rights.
Saturday is the International Day for Victims of Violence Based on Religion or Belief.

For the US

Increase congressional support for H. Res 866 - *Condemning the persecution of Christians in Nigeria and standing ready to support President Donald J. Trump in taking decisive action to end the existential threat that persecuted Christians face in Nigeria.*

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-resolution/866/text?s=1&r=1&hl=D+deborah+yakubu>

Increase congressional support for H.R.7457 - *Nigeria Religious Freedom and Accountability Act of 2026*

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/7457>

For the EU

Flag the adoption of the EU parliament resolution: *The risk of death penalty and execution of singer Yahaya Sharif Aminu for blasphemy in Nigeria*, which urges the Nigerian Government to tackle the impunity surrounding killings following blasphemy accusations and urges Nigeria to “immediately withdraw the use of capital punishment for blasphemy and take steps towards full abolition.”

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2023-0116_EN.html

BIBLE VERSES:

*Do not fret because of those who are evil or be envious of those who do wrong; for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away.
Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.*

Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him and he will do this:

He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun.

Psalm 37:1-6