



## PRESS STATEMENT

Abuja, 23rd August 2019

### RE: ARREST OF ALLEGED NIGERIAN FRAUDSTERS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Nigerians in Diaspora Commission is deeply concerned about the news of the court indictment of 80 persons, mainly Nigerians, in various parts of the US, being accused in separate FBI cases of massive email fraud and money laundering. Prior to the court indictment of these eighty persons, of which Valentine Iro and Chukwudi Christogunis Igboke are lead suspects, Obinwanne Okeke had earlier been arrested in Virginia.

We acknowledge the fact that accusation does not mean guilt, and we hope that all the accused will be given fair and speedy trial. We also ask those accused in Nigeria to voluntarily turn themselves in, to American authorities to clear their names, without which the Nigerian government should extradite them if relevant international treaties between the two governments are invoked.

While such actions ultimately have negative effect on the image of the country, the Commission however reiterates as it has always done, that the actions of a few Nigerians involved in criminal activities is not and can never be what the majority of Nigerians represent. We advise and we continuously resist any stereotyping of Nigeria and Nigerians generally.

The Commission will continue to monitor the case closely.

*Abike Dabiri-Erewa*

Honourable Abike Dabiri-Erewa  
Chairman/CEO  
NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA COMMISSION