



American Federation  
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

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AFT Teachers  
AFT PSRP  
AFT Higher Education  
AFT Public Employees  
AFT Healthcare

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555 New Jersey Ave. N.W.  
Washington, DC 20001  
202/879-4400  
www.aft.org

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April 15, 2008

His Excellency President Umaru Yar'adua  
President of the Republic of Nigeria  
Office of the President  
Aso Rock  
Abuja, Federal Capital Territory  
Nigeria

Dear President Yar'adua:

I am writing on behalf of the 1.4 million members of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, to express our concern over the immediate safety and welfare of Professor Sandy Cioffi, a member of the AFT who is now being detained in Abuja, according to a statement from Ministry of Defence spokesperson, Brigadier-General Mohammed Yusuf.

We understand that Professor Cioffi -- along with her colleagues, Tammi Sims, Cliff Worsham, and Sean Porter -- entered Nigeria legally, on valid visas, to complete work on a documentary film in the Niger Delta. We further understand that this was Professor Cioffi's fourth trip to Nigeria, and that her filmmaking plans had been outlined to local authorities in advance.

During their trip, Professor Cioffi and her colleagues were detained at a military checkpoint, before being transported to Abuja for further questioning by military authorities. Of immediate concern are reports that the group has so far been unable to contact legal representation, or to communicate with family in the United States. We therefore request that federal and local authorities ensure Professor Cioffi's and her colleagues' safety and that they are treated fairly under the law and given access to legal and consular representation in accordance with international convention.

Sincerely,

Edward J. McElroy  
President

Umaru Musa Yar'adua /Page 2

cc: The Honorable Dr. Aliyu Modibbo Umar  
Minister, Federal Capital Territory  
Kapital Street, off Obafemi Awolowo Street  
Garki Area 11, P.M.B. 25, Garki, Abuja  
Fax: (234)-9-314-38-59

The Honorable Mahmud Yayale Ahmed  
Ministry of Defence  
Ship House, Area 10, Abuja  
Fax: (234)-9-234-07-14

The Honorable Ambassador Oluwole Rotimi  
Chancery of Nigeria  
3519 International Court N.W.  
Washington, DC 20008  
Fax: (202) 775-1385

The Honorable Robin Renee Sanders  
United States Ambassador to Nigeria  
Embassy of the United States of America  
Plot 1075 Diplomatic Drive  
Central District Area, Abuja  
Fax: (234)-9-461-4036

The Honorable Dr. Jendayi Frazer  
Assistant Secretary  
Bureau of African Affairs  
United States Department of State  
Fax: (202) 736-4583