



UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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PRESS RELEASE

UNAA DEMANDS JUSTICE FOR EMERITUS PROF. M. A. C. AGHAJI, FAS, FACC

Subject: Condemnation of Gestapo-Style Raid and Unlawful Detention of a Distinguished Alumnus by the DSS

Date: 11th July 2026

The University of Nigeria Alumni Association is outraged and condemns in the strongest terms the Gestapo-style invasion, arrest, and detention of our distinguished alumnus, **Emeritus Professor M. A. C. Aghaji, FAS, FACC**, by personnel of the Department of State Services, DSS Enugu Command, in the early hours of **3rd July 2026**.

The Facts As Reported

1. At **2:05 AM**, armed DSS operatives from the Enugu office forcibly invaded the private residence of Prof. Aghaji in Independence Layout, Enugu — a home his family has occupied peacefully for 30 years.
2. The operatives scaled fences, dug holes through the perimeter wall, bulldozed the main gate, and deployed approximately 30 armed men and two vehicles.
3. Prof. Aghaji, 74, and his visiting daughter, believing they were under attack by kidnappers or terrorists, barricaded themselves upstairs and called for police help. The operatives broke down doors and destroyed property, including television sets.
4. Without stating any charge, Prof. Aghaji was whisked away and detained first in a dirty cell in Enugu until Friday morning, then flown to the DSS Magodo office in Lagos.
5. On Sunday, 48+ hours later, the DSS offered no charge, no explanation, and only a verbal "we are sorry," before abandoning him to buy his own ticket back to Enugu.
6. At no point was Prof. Aghaji invited, charged, or afforded due process as guaranteed by Sections 34, 35 and 36 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Who Is Prof. Aghaji?

Emeritus Prof. M. A. C. Aghaji is a national treasure and pride of the University of Nigeria.

Best graduating student in 1977. Consultant Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgeon at UNTH for nearly 4 decades. Pioneer of Nigeria's first successful mitral and aortic valve replacement surgeries with mechanical valves. Founding Vice Chancellor of Federal University of Health Sciences, Otukpo. A man who has spent his life saving lives deserves honor, not humiliation.

UNAA'S DEMANDS

The University of Nigeria Alumni Association, representing over 300,000 alumni worldwide, hereby demands as follows:

1. **Immediate and Unreserved Public Apology:** The Department of State Services must tender an open, unqualified apology to Prof. Aghaji. This apology shall be published prominently in **at least three national daily newspapers** and broadcast on national television within 7 days of this statement.

2. **Full Investigation and Accountability:** The Director-General of the DSS must constitute an independent panel to investigate the Enugu Command. All officers involved in this unlawful raid must be identified, disciplined, and prosecuted where applicable.
3. **Full restitution and adequate compensation** to Prof. Aghaji for unlawful detention, destruction of property, medical and psychological trauma, reputational damage, and all costs incurred.
4. **Assurance of Non-Repetition:** The DSS must issue clear directives to all commands that senior citizens, public intellectuals, and law-abiding citizens shall not be subjected to nocturnal raids without due process and a warrant.

Conclusion

This was not an arrest. It was an assault on dignity, on due process, and on a man who gave his life to Nigeria.

If the DSS can treat a 74-year-old Emeritus Professor and former Vice Chancellor this way, then no Nigerian is safe.

UNAA will pursue every legal, diplomatic, and civic avenue until justice is done. We give the DSS 7 days to meet demand 1, and 21 days to commence action on demands 2-4.

Signed,

For: University of Nigeria Alumni Association



Queen Linda Agua-Onyekwelu, Ph.D
National President



Mr. Tony Chukwu
National Secretary