



Ref: NP/UKHC/07/25

July 22, 2025

His Excellency,
Dr. Richard Montgomery CMG,
The High Commissioner,
UK High Commission,
Federal Republic of Nigeria
Abuja, Nigeria

Your Excellency,

RE: Appeal to Disregard Politically Motivated Petition by “Leadership & Accountability Initiative” Against Governor Monday Okpebholo

We write on behalf of The National Patriots, a non-partisan civic organization committed to responsible governance and national stability, to express concern over a petition recently submitted to your office by a group known as the Leadership & Accountability Initiative. The petition calls for a visa ban on His Excellency, Governor Monday Okpebholo of Edo State, and his immediate family over an incident involving Mr. Peter Obi, former presidential candidate, and a rally allegedly obstructed by the Governor.

After reviewing the facts, we respectfully urge the British High Commission to disregard the petition in its entirety on the following grounds:

1. Lack of Credibility of the Petitioning Organization

The Leadership & Accountability Initiative is not a registered civic group of repute. It has no known leadership, legal structure, or track record of civic engagement. Our findings suggest the group operates primarily online with politically motivated intentions, lacking the transparency and legitimacy required to bring forward such serious diplomatic requests.

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2. Governor's Actions Were Lawful and Preventive

Governor Okpebholo acted within his constitutional authority as Chief Security Officer of Edo State. The event in question, reportedly organized as a "birthday rally" by Peter Obi's supporters, was scheduled outside of the legally approved campaign period defined under Section 94(1) of the Electoral Act 2022, which prohibits political rallies before INEC's official campaign window.

Given the absence of adequate security coordination and credible threat of unrest, the Governor's decision to prevent the rally was in line with his duty to maintain public order and safety, not a partisan act or abuse of power.

3. A Pattern of Undermining Institutions

Mr. Peter Obi has frequently sought to bypass official electoral protocols and reframe enforcement actions as political persecution. His supporters have often attempted to internationalize domestic disputes. This latest attempt—through an obscure group—appears designed to discredit a sitting Governor and mislead international partners.

We are also aware that UK law enforcement authorities, including the National Crime Agency (NCA), are familiar with Mr. Obi's background and have relevant information that speaks to the broader context of this issue.

4. No Basis for Visa Sanctions

There is no legal or diplomatic justification for imposing a visa restriction on the Governor or his family. Doing so based on an unsubstantiated petition would set a troubling precedent and risk foreign missions being entangled in Nigeria's internal political maneuverings.

5. Call for Objectivity and Institutional Respect

We respectfully appeal to the High Commission to uphold its longstanding standard of objective diplomacy. Nigeria's state authorities—including its governors and INEC—must be respected. Encouraging adherence to legal electoral timelines is not repression; it is essential to democratic order.

Conclusion

Governor Okpebholo acted in line with both Nigerian law and his duty to the people of Edo State. The petition against him is not only baseless but clearly politically motivated. We trust in your discretion and encourage you to treat this matter with the balance and fairness that have long defined the relationship between the United Kingdom and the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

We remain available to provide any further clarification your office may require and thank you for your continued support in strengthening democratic governance.

Yours faithfully,



Dr. Imran Khazaly. MFR.

Chairman, The National Patriots

Lagos. Abuja. Kano. Port Harcourt.