



17th January, 2026

The Honourable Minister of Environment,
Federal Ministry of Environment,
Mabushi, Abuja, FCT.

Dear Sir,

URGENT PETITION: FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF PRESIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE ORDER (GAZETTE NO. 180, VOL. 112), ILLEGAL LOGGING FOR EXPORT, AND THE SYSTEMIC CRIMINALIZATION OF INDIGENOUS FOREST DEFENDERS

The Emerging Genderplus Outreach Team (EGOT), an organization committed to the protection of women and children and the prevention of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) within forest-dependent communities, formally petitions your office regarding the destructive activities of **Ezemac International Company (Nig) Ltd** in the Ekuri Community Forest, Cross River State.

I. Violation of National Policy and Environmental Law

Despite the clear provisions of the **Presidential Executive Order** (Official Gazette No. 180, Vol. 112, dated October 16, 2025), which strictly prohibits the export of wood products, **Ezemac International** continues massive logging operations explicitly targeted at international export. This is not only a defiance of the President's mandate but a direct assault on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Act, CAP.E12, as no social or environmental safeguards have been observed.

II. Criminalization of Peaceful Dissent

On January 12, 2026, after witnessing their heritage being plundered without the consent of the host community, the Ekuri youth took a non-violent stand to protect their land. In a retaliatory abuse of power, **Ezemac International** has weaponized the Zone 6 Police in Calabar to intimidate the community. The arbitrary arrest of Dr. Martins Egot, a respected leader, and the scheduled 'interviews' in Calabar for the Clan Head and Youth Leader—who must travel approximately **145km on motorbikes** just to attend these summons—serve one purpose: to silence those who defend the law.

III. The Gender and Humanitarian Crisis

As an NGO focused on the safety of women and children, we emphasize that forest destruction is a gendered issue. The establishment of unauthorized, aggressive logging camps introduces a "frontier culture" that heightens the risk of exploitation and Gender-Based Violence. When the Ekuri forest—the primary source of livelihood for women—is destroyed, the resulting poverty and displacement fall hardest on mothers and children, stripping them of their safety and economic independence.

OUR PRAYERS

In light of the above, and to prevent a total breakdown of law and order, we respectfully urge your office to:

1. Enforce the Presidential Ban by immediately halt all logging and export-bound activities by Ezemac International in compliance with the October 2025 Executive Order.
2. Conduct a thorough audit of the company's operations regarding the EIA Act and the legality of their concessions.
3. Intervene to ensure that the Nigeria Police Force is not used as a private tool of oppression against community leaders and environmental defenders.
4. Ensure that appropriate legal and administrative sanctions are applied where violations of federal environmental laws are established.

Attached are photographic and video evidence of the heavy-duty logging equipment currently devastating the heart of the Ekuri forest. The Ekuri community has successfully managed this forest for generations. They should be protected by the State, not persecuted for upholding national environmental policy. We trust in your commitment to justice and environmental stewardship.

Respectfully,


Aaron Egot,
Executive Director