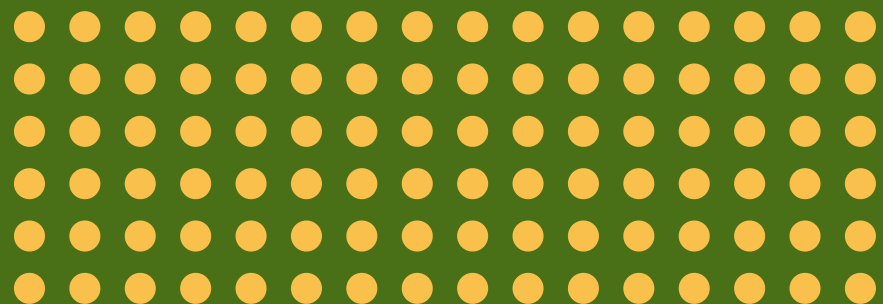




MINORITY WATCH

ANNUAL REPORT

AMPLIFYING VOICES, ENFORCING RIGHTS, BUILDING JUSTICE



2024

Executive Summary

The year 2024 marked a period of **strategic expansion, legal intervention, and movement consolidation** for Minority Watch.

Operating at the intersection of law and human rights advocacy, the organization intensified efforts to:

- Challenge systemic discrimination
- Support survivors of violence
- Advance legal protections for LGBTQI persons and people living with HIV

Through litigation, advocacy, and capacity building, Minority Watch continued to position itself as a **critical legal voice for marginalized communities in Nigeria.**



Strategic Focus Areas

In 2024, Minority Watch concentrated on:

- Strategic Litigation & Legal Aid
- Criminal Justice Accountability
- Human Rights Advocacy & Public Education
- Capacity Building & Community Empowerment
- Partnerships & Institutional Engagement



Legal Advocacy & Litigation

3.1 Criminal Justice Interventions

COP v. Ibrahim Adebayo

- **Charges:** Assault, willful damage to property, and grievous harm

Key development:

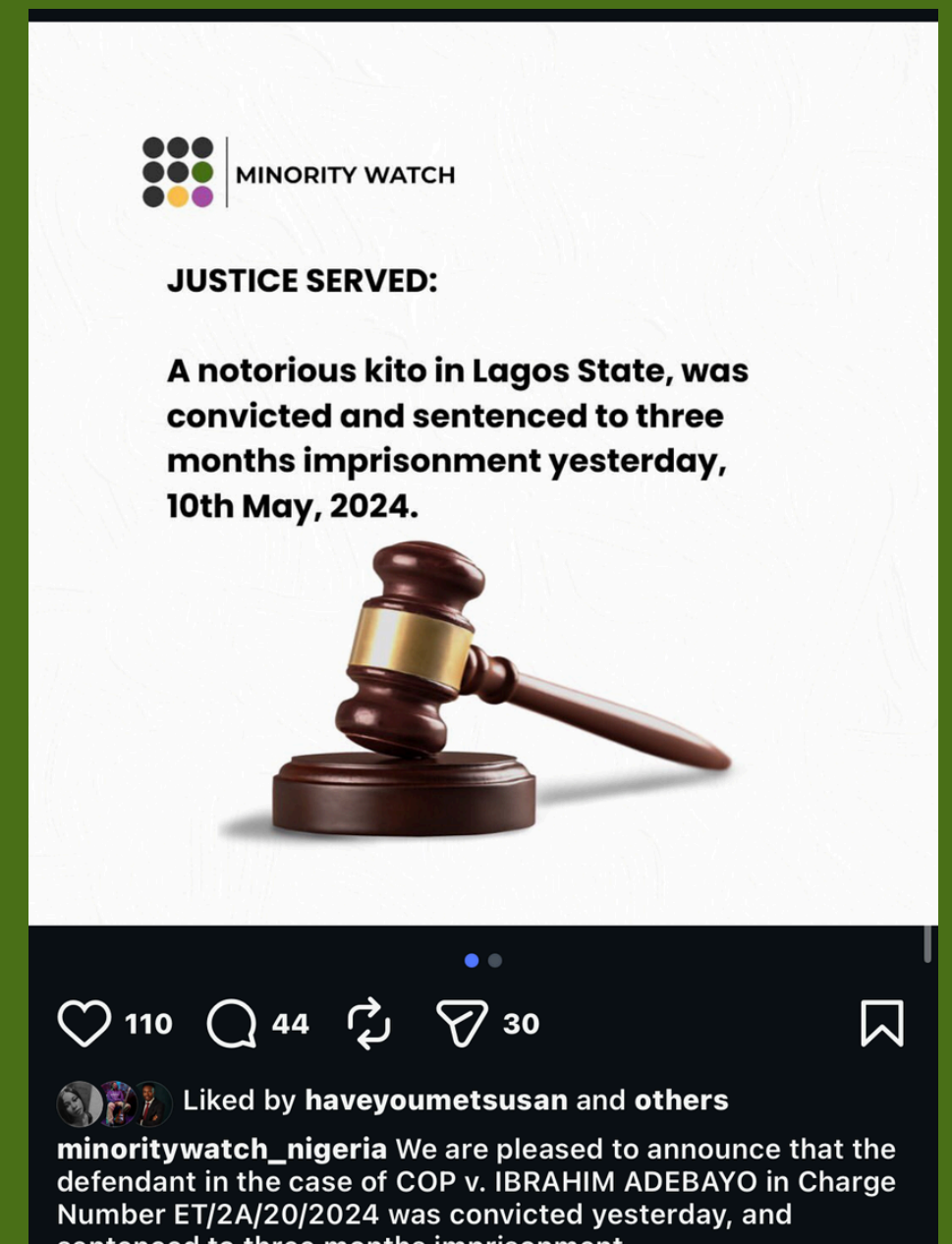
- Initial guilty plea later changed to not guilty
- Charge amended to include grievous harm (biting off victim's ear)

Outcome:

- Defendant convicted and sentenced to 3 months imprisonment

Significance:

Though sentencing raised concerns about proportionality, the case reinforced the principle that **violence against LGBTQI individuals can be prosecuted successfully.**



Kito Gang Prosecutions (Lekki Case)

9 suspects charged with:

- Kidnapping
- Armed robbery
- Conspiracy

Modus operandi:

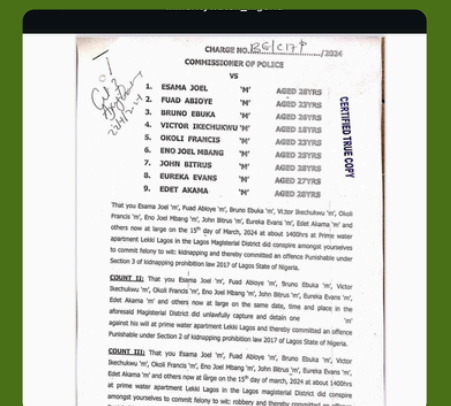
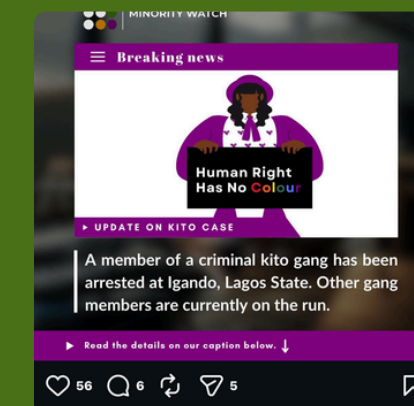
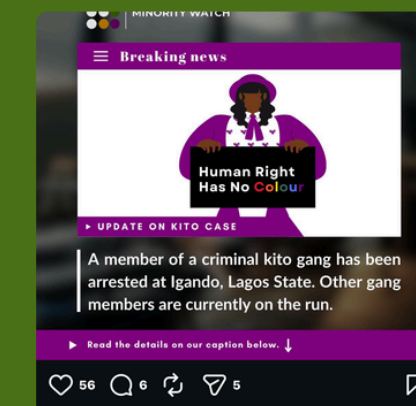
- Luring victims via social apps
- Extortion through threats and blackmail

Key developments:

- Remand of suspects in correctional facility
- Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) advised prosecution

Impact:

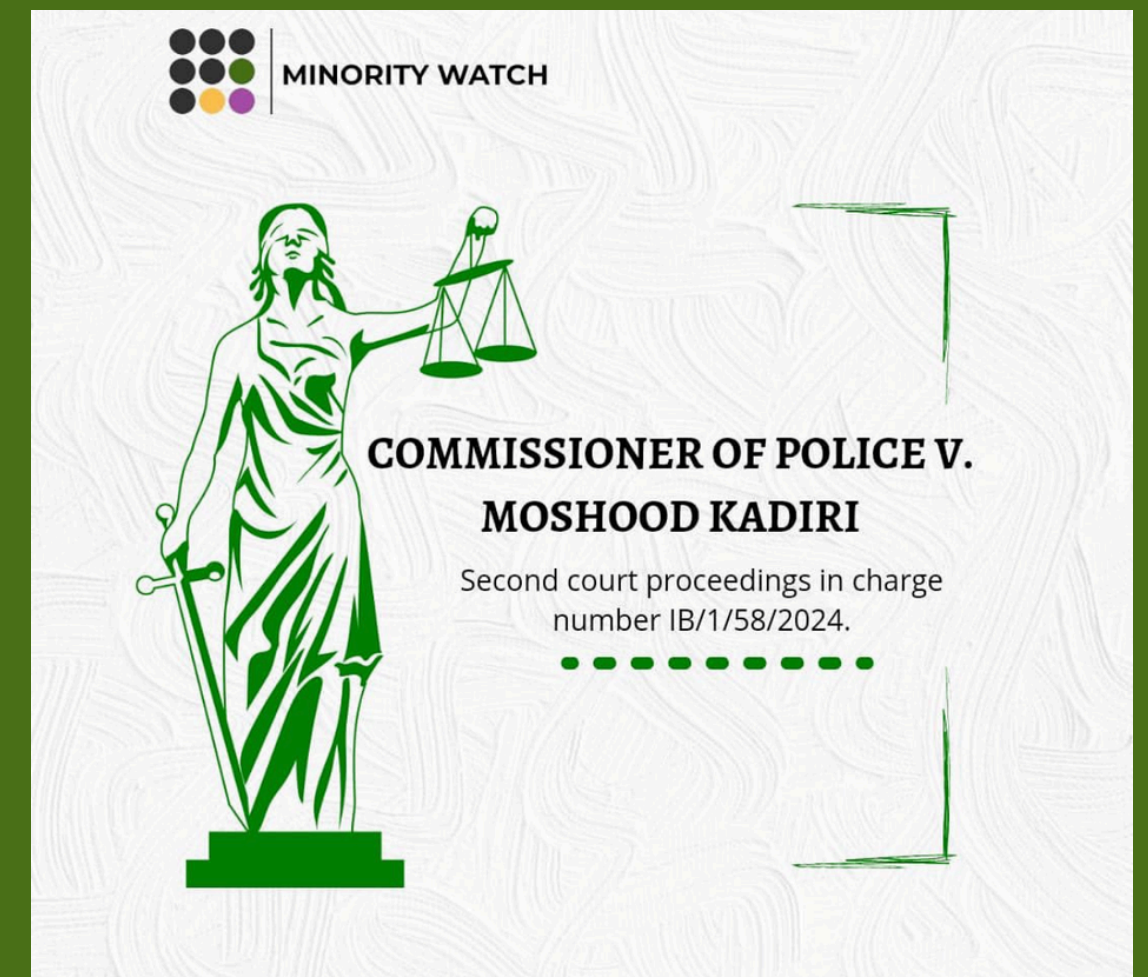
One of the most significant coordinated legal responses to organized anti-LGBTQI criminal violence in Nigeria.



Moshood Kadiri Case

Charges: Conspiracy and stealing

- Bail granted but later revoked following DPP advice
- Case escalated to High Court for prosecution



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Liked by **chizeluesq** and others

minoritywatch_nigeria The matter came up today for mention before the Hon. Magistrate O. A Akokhia of court 1, Iba, Lagos State.

Ewa Abang announced his appearance for the prosecution. Grace Etim (Mrs.) announced her appearance for the defendant. Chizelu Emejulu announced his appearance as

3.2 Survivor-Centered Justice

Transgender Survivor Case (Johnwealth Elohim)

- **Charges:** Assault and theft against a transgender woman
- Resolved through out-of-court settlement

Historic significance:

Marked one of the first documented instances of a transgender woman in Nigeria testifying in court against her abuser.



 Liked by **chevs_org** and others

minoritywatch_nigeria We are pleased to announce that the defendant in the case of COP v. JOHNWEALTH ELOHIM in Charge Number ET/4A/74/2023 has reached an amicably out of court settlement of the case with the nominal complainant (the victim).

3.3 HIV Discrimination Cases

Unata Majesty Emmanuel Case

- Employee dismissed after non-consensual HIV test
- Legal action initiated against employer and medical facility

ACT, 2014.

1. We are solicitors to Mr. Unata Majesty Emmanuel (hereinafter referred to as "our client") on whose behalf and instructions we write.
2. Our client informed us that by virtue of a Contract of Employment dated December 19th, 2023, he was an employee of Genesis Sojourner Ltd (otherwise known as The Sojourner by Genesis, and hereinafter referred to as "the company").

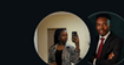
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Liked by **mariam.ooa** and others

minoritywatch_nigeria We are pleased to announce that [@minoritywatch_nigeria](#), through [@emejululaw](#); the law firm that consults for us as an organization, is currently handling the case of one Mr. Unata Majesty Emmanuel whose rights have been abused on the grounds of his real or perceived HIV status. We have the written consent of the said Mr. Unata Emmanuel to make this publication.

The gist of Mr. Emmanuel's case is that sometime in December, 2023, he became an employee of The Sojourner by Genesis; a restaurant based in Ikeja, Lagos State. He was employed as a waiter in the restaurant. Mr. Emmanuel was dismissed from his place of work, without pay, because after the restaurant subjected him to a HIV test without his consent, the test revealed that he was HIV positive.

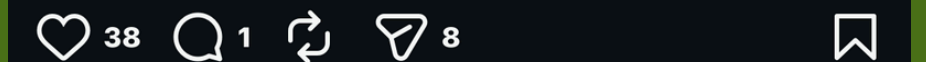
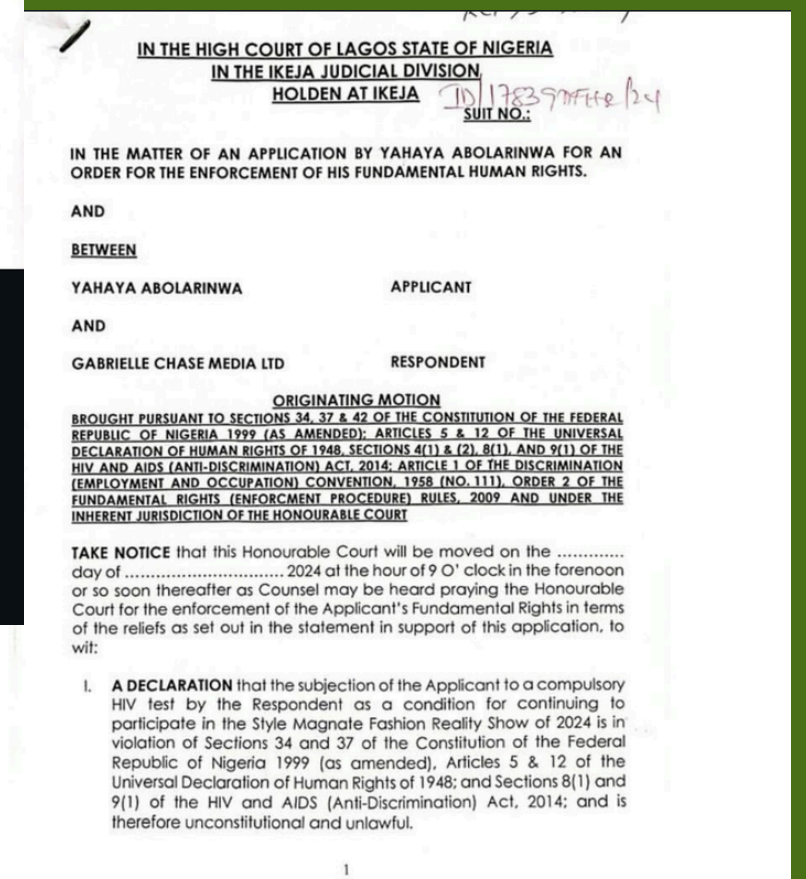
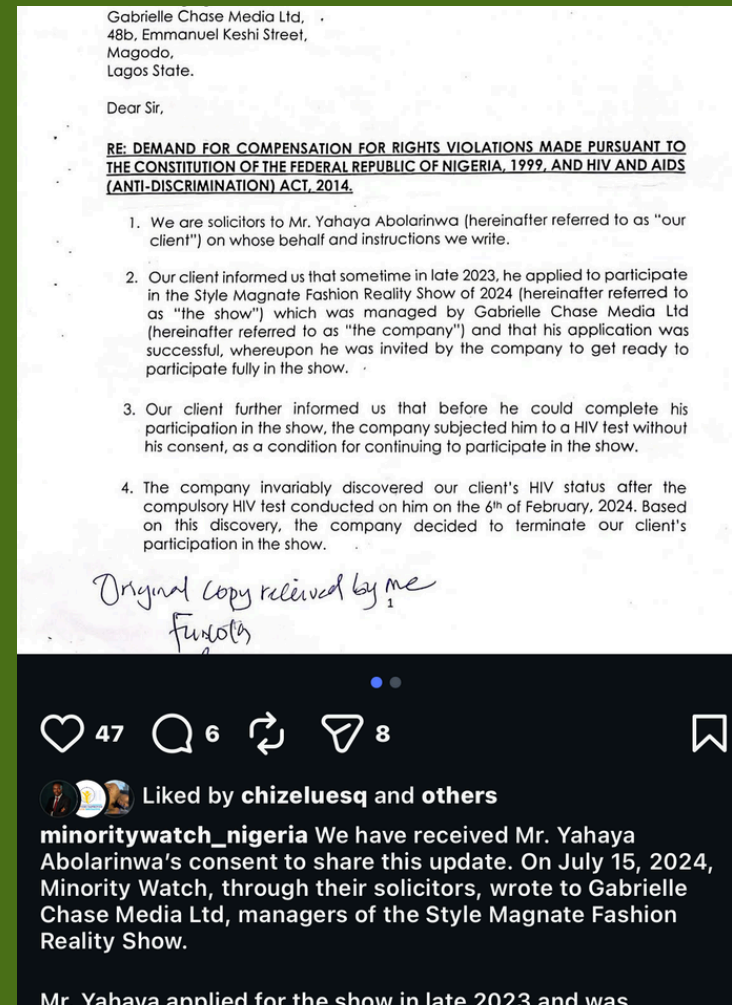
We are fortified in our legal view that the actions of the restaurant in dismissing Mr. Emmanuel on the bases of his real or perceived HIV status, and the actions of the Ikeja Medical Center in carrying out the HIV test on him and communicating the result to the restaurant, all without his consent, is in violation of relevant sections of the HIV and

Yahaya Abolarinwa Case

- Subjected to compulsory HIV testing in a reality show
- Participation terminated due to HIV status
- ₦10 million damages demanded
- Fundamental rights enforcement suit filed

Legal Basis:

HIV & AIDS (Anti-Discrimination) Act



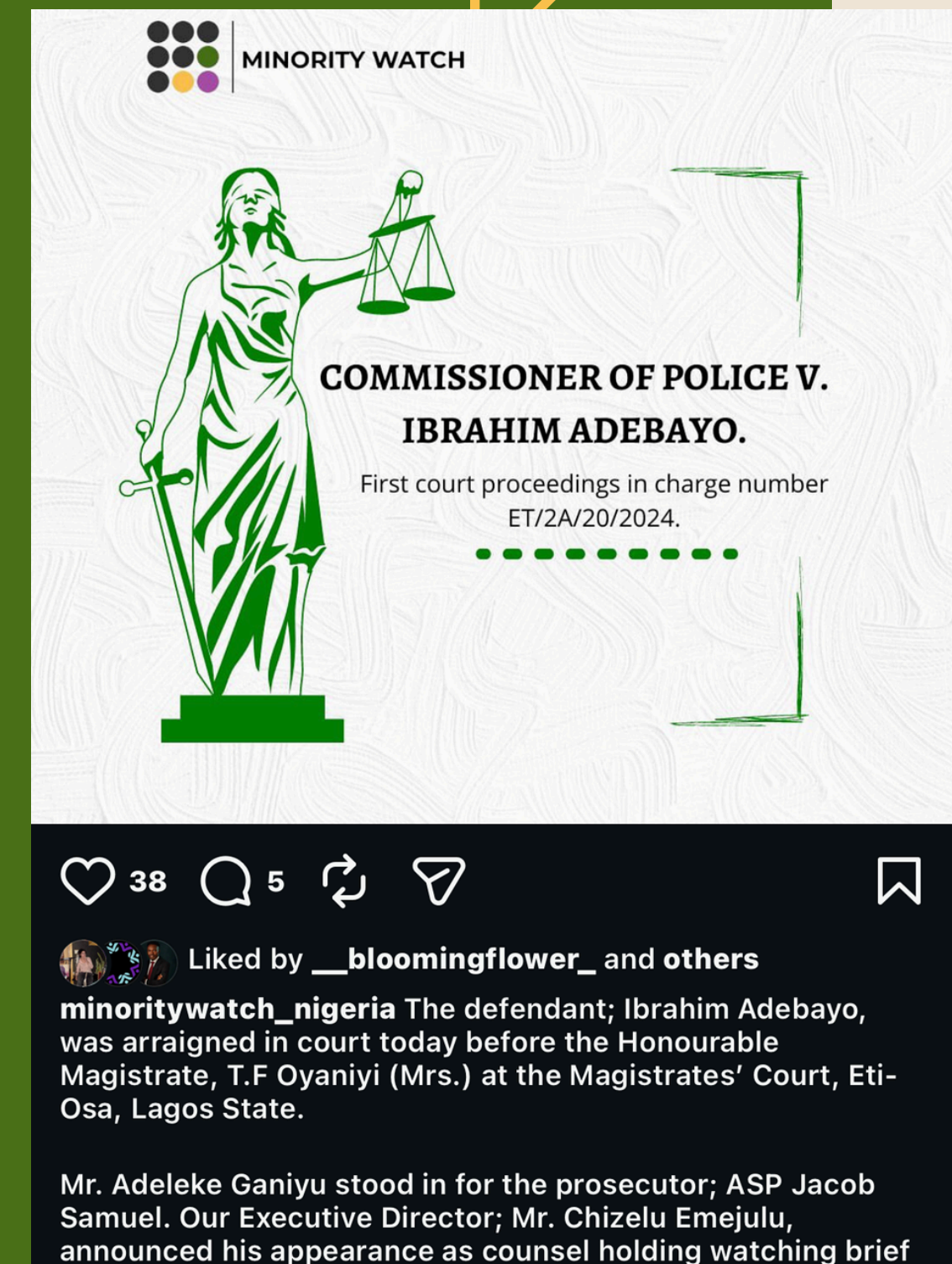
4. Emergency Response & Rights Protection

Arrests & Legal Support

- Facilitated arrest of serial offender Ibrahim Adebayo
- Supported survivor-led reporting of kito gang violence
- Paralegals actively accompanied victims to police stations

Case Monitoring

- Provided legal oversight (“watching brief”) across multiple cases
- Ensured survivor representation and visibility within the justice system

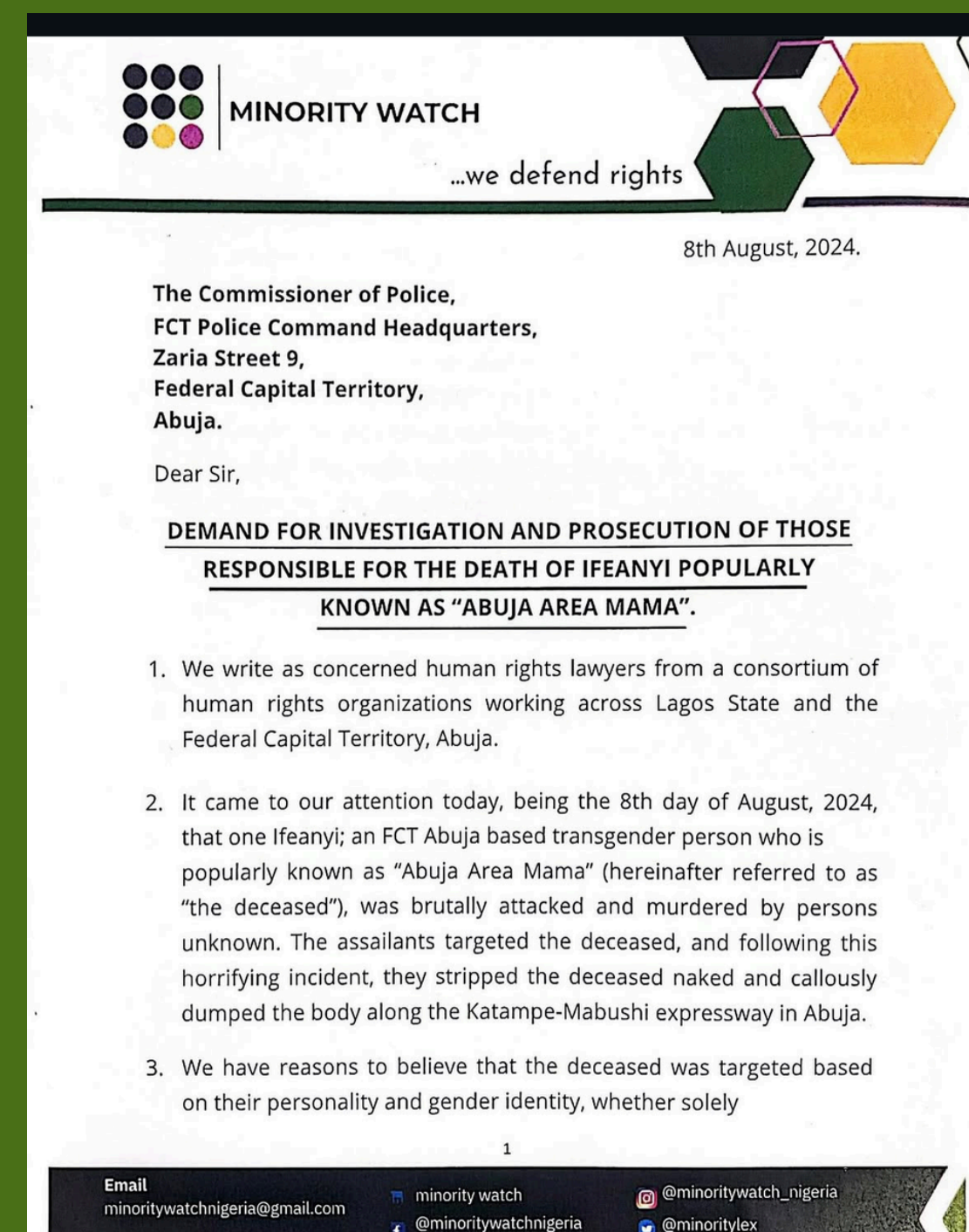


5. Advocacy & Public Engagement

5.1 Response to Human Rights Violations

Murder of “Abuja Area Mama”

- Joint petition submitted to police authorities
- Advocacy for investigation and accountability



5.2 Media & Public Education

Blog series addressing:

- Legal misconceptions about LGBTQI rights
- Social hypocrisy and discrimination
- Terminology and advocacy narratives

Public commentary on:

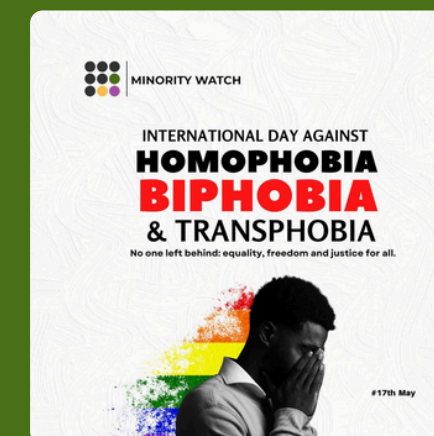
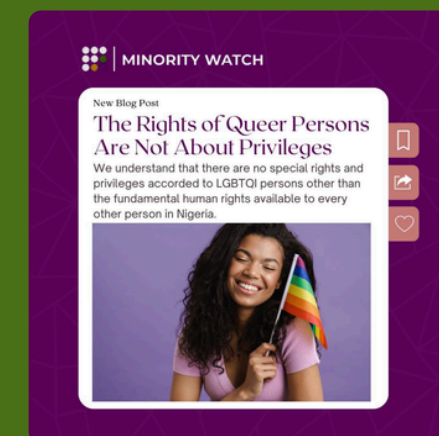
- Ghana's anti-LGBTQI legislation
- Disinformation surrounding international agreements



5.3 Campaigns & Awareness Initiatives

IDAHOBIT 2024 Campaign

- Pride Month advocacy
- Anti-violence awareness campaigns
- Fundraising for survivor medical care



6. Capacity Building & Programs

6.1 Paralegal Training Program

- Training on:
 - SOGIESC (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Expression, and Sex Characteristics)
 - Arrest and bail procedures
 - Legal frameworks for rights protection



6.2 “Human Right Has No Colour” Fellowship

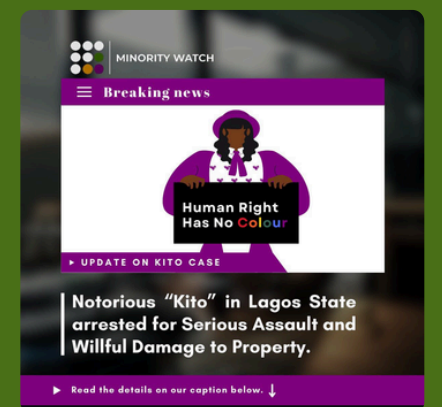
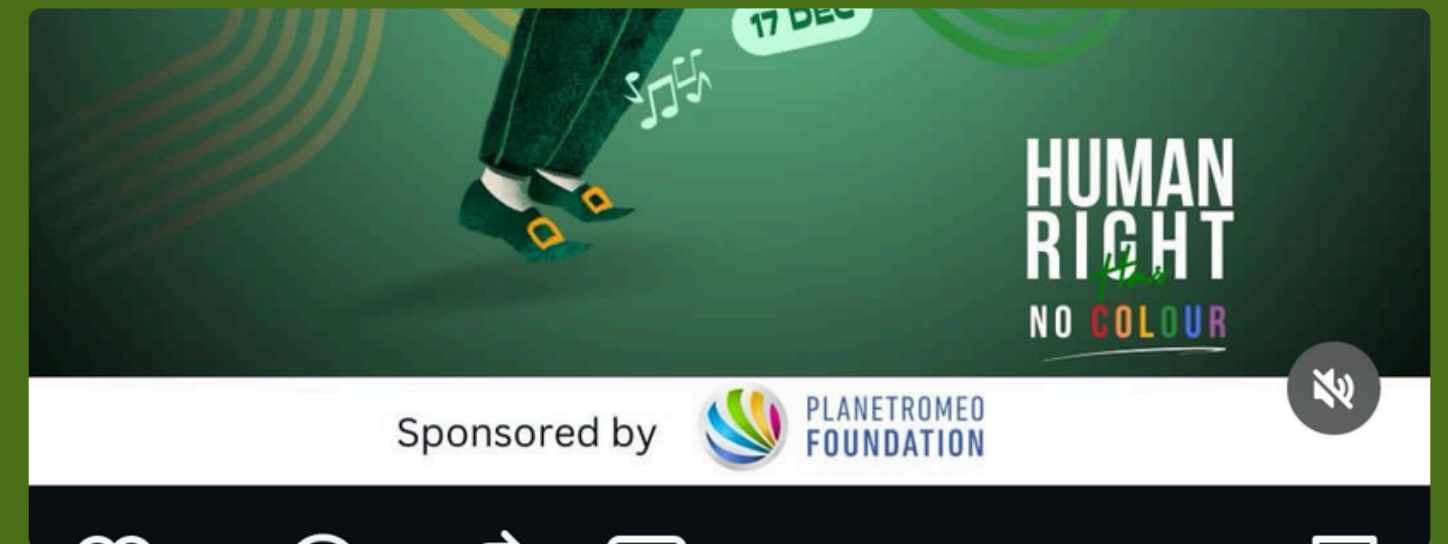
9-week program funded by PlanetRomeo Foundation

Focus areas:

- Legal literacy
- Personal safety
- Community resilience

Outcome:

- 20 participants successfully graduated



7. Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagement

Government & Institutions

Engagement with:

- Lagos State Ministry of Youth & Social Development
- Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP)
- Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA)

International Engagement:

- Participation in events hosted by the United States Consulate General Lagos
- Strategic discussions with diplomatic representatives



105 4

Liked by [__bloomingflower_](#) and others

[minoritywatch_nigeria](#) It was a remarkable evening at the US Consul General's residence yesterday.

Civil Society Collaboration

Partnerships with:

- Health organizations
- LGBTQI advocacy groups
- Legal and human rights NGOs



8. Research, Thought Leadership & Publications

Published blog posts on:

- Constitutional rights and LGBTQI identity
- Media narratives and misinformation
- Advocacy language and framing

Executive Director contributed op-ed to Reuters Openly

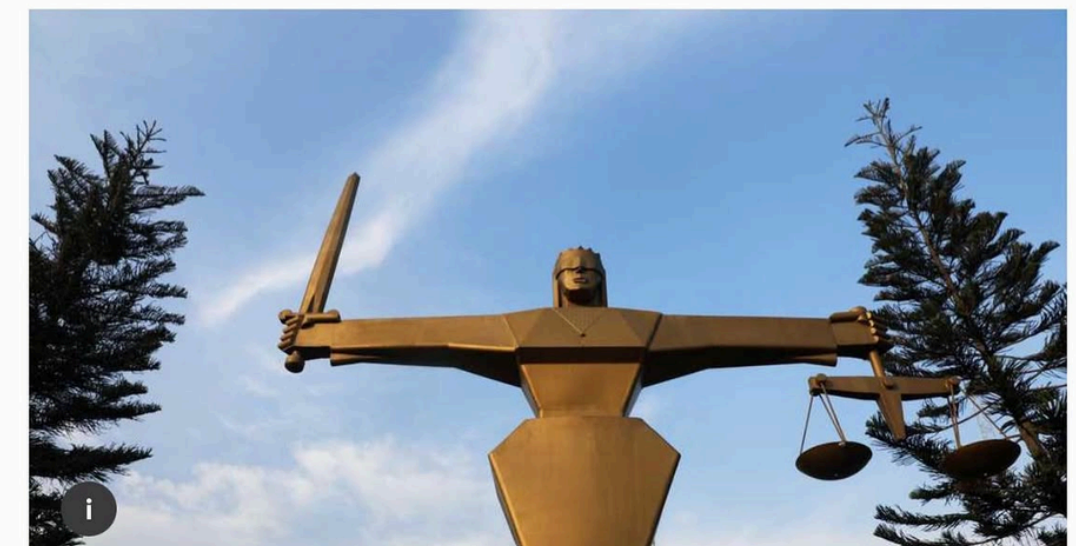
An Initiative by  THOMSON REUTERS
FOUNDATION

 Openly

As a lawyer in Nigeria, one trans woman has renewed my hope

by Chizelu Emejulu | Minority Watch

Thursday, 18 January 2024 09:40 GMT



9. Survivor Support & Fundraising

Makinde Olasunkanmi Case

- Survivor of severe physical assault
- Campaign launched for reconstructive surgery funding

Approach

- Direct financial support
- Public fundraising campaigns
- Advocacy for survivor dignity and recovery

Dear Sir/Ma,

MEDICAL REPORT

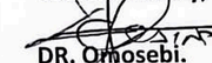
RE: MAKINDE OLASUNKAMI/ MALE/ 25YRS/ HOSP. NO:604210

The above-named presented to our clinic on the 8th February, 2024 on account of 3 month history of traumatic right ear defect sustained following a human bite.

Examination revealed a composite defect in the middle 3rd of the helix of right ear covered by scar tissue.

An assessment of traumatic right ear defect was made and he's being planned for two staged ear reconstruction with a retro-auricular flap.

Yours sincerely,



DR. Omosebi.

Consultant Plastic/Reconstructive Surgeon.



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Liked by **tiersnigeria** and **others**

minoritywatch_nigeria Makinde Olasunkanmi; a young man with dreams of advancing his music career, endured a brutal attack that not only left him emotionally scarred but also cost him his right ear.

10. Organizational Development

Internal Capacity Strengthening

- Two-day organizational training
- Refinement of thematic focus areas
- Enhanced operational efficiency

11. Challenges

- Delays in prosecution processes
- Jurisdictional limitations at Magistrate Courts
- Societal stigma and survivor reluctance
- Spread of misinformation fueling discrimination



12. Achievements

- Successful criminal conviction in a high-profile violence case
- Landmark survivor testimony by a transgender woman
- Expansion of legal aid and advocacy reach
- Strengthened institutional partnerships
- Successful implementation of national fellowship program

13. Looking Ahead

Minority Watch enters 2025 with a focus on:

- Expanding strategic litigation at higher courts
- Strengthening survivor-centered legal frameworks
- Scaling community legal education programs
- Deepening partnerships for systemic impact



14. Conclusion

The events of 2024 reaffirm a critical reality:

Justice for marginalized communities requires persistence, courage, and strategic use of the law.

Minority Watch continues to:

- **Amplify silenced voices**
- **Challenge systemic injustice**
- **Advance legal protections for all**

Human rights has no colour and neither does justice.