



DiEM25 condemns violent crackdown on widespread protests in Nigeria

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[brutality Nigeria protests violence](#)

The [violent crackdown on protesters in Nigeria](#) has prompted our movement's concern over the widespread of authoritarianism across the globe.

DiEM25 founder and MeRA25 member of the Greek Parliament, Yanis Varoufakis, stated:

"It is with horror that I heard on the radio this morning eye witness accounts of how, utterly unprovoked, police opened fire against a crowd of peaceful protesters in Lagos – leaving more than twenty lifeless bodies behind. Progressives across the world must send a loud message to governments that we shall not tolerate such brutality. Anywhere around the world."

DiEM25 Coordinating Collective member, Renata Ávila said, *"The Nigerian government, who agreed to extensive police reforms, needs to translate their words into actions or face consequences. A nation with leadership in trade and diplomatic ambitions in the region and the world, should be accountable and responsible for the crimes against humanity committed against peaceful protestors. Cancelling all EU visas from the Nigerian Federal Government and freezing aid and trade deals can send a powerful message to those in charge."*

As noted in the New York Times, "...protesters in Nigeria, the most populous country in Africa, have been demanding that the government disband a rogue police unit called the Special Anti-Robbery Squad, commonly known as SARS, and that they say particularly robs, tortures and even kills well-dressed young people who the officers think might have money. The crowds have also called for punishment of officers who commit brutality."

DiEM25 stands with the protesters in Nigeria who have suffered from such acts of violence, as we will always do wherever and whenever such brutal acts occur.