

The Ogunkoya Family Case Briefing



The Ogunkoya family's asylum claims have been denied by the Immigration & Refugee Board. They are now facing an unjust deportation by the Government of Canada to return to Nigeria where the family will face life-threatening violence. This Christian family will face violence of Muslim extremists if they are forced to return to Nigeria.

The Ask: One Free World International is appealing to the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada and Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness to use their ministerial powers to intervene and stop the deportation and grant them refuge in Canada.

Who are the Ogunkoyas?

Morufat and her three children are from Nigeria. Morufat converted to Christianity from Islam. Morufat's father is a powerful figure in the extremist Islamic organization Nasril Fathia, affiliated with the more widely known Boko Haram.

Her father and the organization have issued a fatwa on Morufat and her three children, and prior to fleeing, a group attacked Victor and his sister. The group cut his hand and threatened that the family must convert to Islam or face further violence.

Fearing for their lives, they fled to North America. Landing at JFK airport in New York, the family fearing their chances of being accepted by the Trump Administration as refugees fled to Canada and made an in-land asylum claim on January 1, 2018 in Quebec on the basis of religious persecution.



Why are they facing deportation?

The Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) denied the family asylum claim and their subsequent appeal. In its ruling, the IRB claimed the family could move to a Christian majority area of Port Harcourt in Nigeria's south and be safe.

In reality, they will continue to face the threat of death given the fatwa on their lives. The IRB failed to assess how grave this threat to their lives will remain and how easy it would be for those seeking to carry out the Fatwa to harm the family if they return anywhere in Nigeria.

The family relocated to Ontario shortly after entering Canada, originally in Toronto before settling and integrating into the community in Welland, Ontario. Fearing a deportation, the family has gone into hiding.

One Free World International Takes Action

One Free World International is dedicated to fighting back against religious persecution and being a voice for the voiceless.

Since learning of the Ogunkoya's plight, OFWI has been supporting the family with community partners and ensuring their continued safety. OFWI has also mobilized the resources and supporters to campaign for their safety and to be able to remain in Canada.

- **Legal Support:** Hired a legal team to proceed with an Humanitarian and Compassionate for the family to remain in Canada
- **Petition:** OFWI initiated a petition that has so far gathered over 3,000 signatures from Canadians <https://ofwi.org/ogunkoyapetition>
- **Fundraising:** OFWI has raised the funds to provide ongoing support for the family and to cover the legal costs for their case

While the above activity continues, One Free World International is asking you to use your voice in Parliament to help this family and join our appeal to the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada and Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness to use their ministerial powers to intervene and stop the deportation and grant them refuge in Canada.
