



Sept. 14, 2018

The Hon. Bill Blair
Minister of Border Security and Organized Crime Reduction
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Bill.Blair@parl.gc.ca

Re: The visit of Extremist Homophobic Hate Preacher Johnson Suleman to Canada

Dear Minister Blair:

Dignity Network is a network of over 20 Canadian civil society organizations involved in the support and advancement of human rights for LGBTI people globally. One of our current working groups, co-chaired by Rev. Brent Hawkes, focuses on addressing religiously based homophobia and transphobia globally.

Reverend Jide Macaulay, one of our international partners from Nigeria, has advised us of the upcoming visit of a virulently homophobic & Islamophobic religious leader from Nigeria, Johnson Suleman, to Canada. Suleman is the General Overseer of Omega Fire Ministries in Nigeria and he is scheduled to preach in Calgary at the local Omega Fire Ministries church on September 18 and 19, 2018. Advertisements for this visit are now circulating on social media sites.

In recent sermons in Nigeria, Suleman has preached that homosexuality is the result of having demons from the pit of hell inside of them and that people need to “kill the spirit of homosexuality in the name of Jesus.” Suleman has also been controversial in Nigeria for past sermons calling for the death of Muslims.

Here is the video where Suleman calls gay people demons and says these demons should be killed: <https://www.facebook.com/WeLoveApostleJohnsonSuleman/videos/416683152193637/>

Here is text from a recent Nigerian newspaper: <http://dailypost.ng/2018/08/28/apostle-suleman-kicks-gays-nigeria-reveals-cause-homosexuality/>

Our network is deeply concerned that Suleman’s visit to Canada will provide him a space to promote and incite hatred against both LGBTIQ2 people and Muslims here in Canada. We are asking the federal government immediately to ensure that he does not come to Canada and if he is already in Canada to use means to expedite his departure.



**DIGNITY
NETWORK**
**RÉSEAU
DIGNITÉ**

We've been in touch with Dr. Kris Wells, an advocate in Alberta who is connected to our network and he has also informed the local Calgary LGBTQ2 Police Liaison about the visit of Suleman to Calgary.

We look forward to your response soon as the visit to Canada is next week.

Rev. Brent Hawkes & Doug Kerr
on behalf of the Dignity Network National Steering Committee
RevBrentHawkes@gmail.com and doug@kerr.org

CC: LGBTQ2 Special Advisor MP Randy Boissonnault, Randy.Boissonnault@parl.gc.ca
Kent Hehr, MP- Calgary Centre, kent.hehr@parl.gc.ca
Constable Dyana McElroy, LGBTQ2 Police Liaison, City of Calgary,
dmcelroy@calgarypolice.ca

Dignity Network: <http://www.dignityinitiative.ca/en/>