

## POETRY

### DENIAL

by Michael Chukwudi

Each time I remember that my life could  
Be snapped away from me at any moment  
By the gods who did not make it, my heart hitches out of me.  
On social media, people would organically wage war for justice to be done  
And with the utmost authority and alacrity  
They question the government and its laws.

It can only take a few days for the public to seek justice.  
With the energy bottled up in them  
They'd shout and sporadically make posts of justice  
In a twinkling of an eye, it all dwindles.

Everyone will move on and forget the black day  
The worst of it, the government acts as if nothing happened.  
But the sitting president can only express shock  
Without even a condolence message  
The dead will be left in the hand of the creator.

Oh! What about hapless Deborah who was stoned like a rat?  
In her pool of blood, she pleaded for mercy, but mercy was nowhere to be found.  
The social media court took over her case and dismissed it unfairly.

Harira Jubril and her four innocent children  
All murdered on the same day and time like the ants and insects,  
Their case was not addressed.  
Everyone moved on as if nothing happened  
Even social media was not set ablaze.

Owo Mascre has come and gone  
The scene was bloody  
Families cried with reckless abandon  
Within a few days, we all moved on again  
Waiting for another calamity to befall our land.

Everyone is already frightened, for no one knows who is next  
It becomes more sinister if you are an ordinary man who tried to speak up  
Because you may travel to the land of no return.

Can you recall the End SARS protest,  
Which took away many innocent souls?  
Their only crime was seeking that justice be done  
And many are still trapped in prison, perishing for no just cause.

Oh dear god of justice; our land has been desecrated by injustice  
The weak finding their way to prison  
For no one would speak for them  
For how long shall we continue like this?

May we not become fugitives in our own fatherland  
We only pray for a Nigeria where justice shall prevail  
And people will be heard, whenever they speak out.

#### Author's Note



**Michael Chukwudi** is a Fellow of Ebedi International Writers Residency, a Fellow of Imodoye Writers Residency, and a member of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) in the Ebonyi State Chapter of the Association in Nigeria.

He is a Postgraduate Student at the Universitas Jenderal Soedirman, Indonesia. His undergraduate studies were at the Ebonyi State University where he graduated with Honors in 2018 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Applied Biology (First Class).