The Origins and Progression of the #endSARS2020 Movement in Nigeria

Caitlin Hunter

On January 21, 2021, FCIL-SIS and BLL-SIS co-hosted a webinar on The Origins and Progression of the #ENDSARS2020 Movement in Nigeria. Femi Cadmus (Associate Dean and Director of the J. Michael Goodson Law Library, Duke Law; Former AALL President) explained the context and history of the #endSARS movement, while Oludayo Bamgbose (Law Librarian, Ajayi Crowther University; Interim President, Association of African Law Library and Information Professionals) discussed the government response. Errol Adams (Reference & Scholarly Services Librarian, Hofstra University Law Library; BLL-SIS Chair), Yemisi Dina (Chief Librarian, Osogbo Hall Law School, York University), Susan Gualtieri (Reference Librarian, University of Pennsylvania Law School, FCIL-SIS Chair), and I also contributed to the development of the webinar.

Nigeria is the largest economy and most populous country in Africa, with immense diversity and stunning natural beauty. Unfortunately, Nigeria struggles with police brutality and corruption, especially by the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS). SARS was formed in 1992 to combat crimes such as robbery, motor vehicle theft, kidnapping, and illegal firearm sales. It later expanded its mandate to include cybercrime, such as the ever-popular Nigerian prince emails and romance scams. However, SARS is regularly linked with torture, extortion, blackmail, home invasions, and extra-judicial killings. SARS officers opportunistically stereotype young, well-dressed Nigerians with laptops and phones by accusing them of cybercrime and then extorting them to avoid arrest.

Police brutality in Nigeria is not new. It dates back to the colonial era and the scramble for Africa, when European powers split some ethnic groups across newly created borders and artificially combined others into new states. In Nigeria, the UK adopted a divide-and-rule strategy, playing Northern and Southern Nigerians against each other based on their different religions, ethnicities, and languages. As a key part of maintaining its repressive rule, the UK brought policemen from Northern Nigeria to the South to arrest and kill opponents of colonialism there. Policing was intimately tied to the UK’s policy of exporting Nigeria’s natural resources, while ignoring the development of basic infrastructure. In one notably brutal attack, police shot to death miners engaged in a peaceful strike during the 1949 Iva Valley Coal Mine Protests.

Nigeria’s most recent wave of protests against police brutality began in 2017, marked by the trending of the #endSARS hashtag on Twitter. Protests have been driven by the Soro Soke (“Speak up!”) generation. This generation attended universities that were hotbeds of protest, where their education was frequently interrupted by strikes by the underpaid faculty. They graduated into an economy with limited job opportunities beyond cyber-scams and are driven to protest against corruption and police violence.

The protests culminated in October 2020, with the disbanding of SARS. On October 3, cell phone video of a police shooting went viral, leading to widespread protests. The government promised to disband SARS but, since it had repeatedly made this promise and repeatedly failed to follow through, protests continued and protestors seized and distributed palliative COVID-related aid to Nigeria. #endSARS has become a symbol of the Black Lives Matter movement in the US, with mass protests in support of the #endSARS movement across the world.

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From the Chair

Susan Gualtieri

Hello, FCIL-SIS members and friends! Four months have passed since my last column, and many of us are still in quarantine and working remotely at least part of the time. Despite the past year’s obstacles, I am so proud of what our SIS has accomplished over the past few months and how well we have managed to stay connected! I am continually amazed by the energy of our members, and I in turn draw energy from you and your outstanding work and dedication to the SIS!

PANDEMIC PROGRAMMING

FCIL-SIS has made the most of the pandemic by hosting a wide range of virtual happy hours, discussions, and online programs. I encourage all of you to take part, whether by tuning in to our webinars, or dropping into the less formal events to chat and catch up with your FCIL colleagues.

Since this summer we have held the following webinars:


A complete list of online programs, with descriptions and links to videos and handouts, can be found at https://www.aallnet.org/fcilsis/education-training/continuing-education/. Many thanks to Caitlin Hunter, chair of the FCIL-SIS Continuing Education Committee, for her incredible work in putting these programs together.

AALL 2021 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

The 2021 conference will be held virtually this summer. Stay tuned for further information as we learn more about programming, meeting schedules, and social events.

FCIL-SIS ELECTIONS

I am pleased to announce that Marcelo Rodríguez has accepted the nomination for the position of FCIL-SIS Vice-Chair/Chair Elect, and that Caitlin Hunter has accepted the nomination for the position of FCIL-SIS Secretary/Treasurer. Jennifer Allison, our current Secretary/Treasurer, will be providing more information about the upcoming election through the Foreign, Comparative, and International Law SIS listserv via My Communities. Stay tuned and vote!

FCIL-SIS AWARDS

Have you, or an FCIL-SIS member you know, made a significant contribution to our profession this year? If so, please let us know! The Executive Committee needs your help identifying the folks who deserve these prestigious FCIL-SIS Awards:

- The Daniel L. Wade FCIL-SIS Outstanding Service Award: honors a FCIL-SIS member who has made an outstanding contribution to our SIS in the areas of section activity and professional service.
- The Thomas H. Reynolds & Arturo A. Flores FCIL-SIS Publications Award: honors a FCIL-SIS member who has greatly contributed to the professional development of their AALL colleagues during any given year. The winning “publications” may be print, digital, or electronic initiatives.
- The Spirit of the FCIL-SIS Award: honors a FCIL-SIS member whose work furthers our mission, serves the entire FCIL-SIS, and inspires others to act.
- The Blog Post of the Year Award: honors an AALL member who contributes an outstanding blog post for the FCIL-SIS blog, DipLawMatic Dialogues, during the previous year.
- The Newsletter Article of the Year Award: honors an FCIL-SIS member who contributes an outstanding article for the FCIL-SIS Newsletter during the previous year.
- The Interest Group/Committee Project of the Year Award: honors the FCIL-SIS Interest Group and/or Committee that produces an outstanding project for the benefit of FCIL-SIS and/or AALL members during the previous year.

Nominations for all awards are due by April 15, 2021, to any member of the Executive Committee: Susan Gualtieri (sgua@law.upenn.edu), Hunter D Whaley (hwhaley@law.columbia.edu), Jennifer Allison (jallison@law.harvard.edu), or Loren Turner (lturner@umn.edu). We look forward to hearing from you!

FINAL COMMENTS
#endSARS2020 continued from page 1

food supplies. On October 20, activists were protesting at the toll gates outside the upscale Lekki neighborhood when they noticed lights going out and government cameras being disabled. Then, the military opened fire. The brutality of this massacre prompted the government to finally disband SARS.

With SARS disbanded, the #endSARS movement has turned to new goals. Specifically, activists are calling for the government to release arrested protestors, provide justice for police brutality victims, create an independent body to review police misconduct, require psychological evaluation and retraining of all SARS officers, and adequately compensate police to prevent corruption. They are also working to promote voter registration and youth representation in government. For its part, the government has created an investigative panel, visited families of victims and given them cash gifts, and promised start-up grants and employment opportunities for youth. Additionally, the government’s desire to get university students off of the streets and back into the classrooms lead it to negotiate with the academic unions to end a strike by lecturers. Although there is continuing skepticism about whether the government’s reforms are simply window dressing, they represent a step in the right direction and activists are continuing to monitor the situation.

Bangboso closed out the webinar by inviting AALL to collaborate on future projects with the Association of African Law Library and Information Professionals (AfLLIP). In particular, he noted that African law students are increasingly seeking post-graduate training in the U.S., and U.S. law libraries can benefit from more expertise in developing their African law collections. (Having tried to help Nigerian LL.M.s track down online versions of Nigerian laws in the past, I heartily agree!) He also encouraged exchange programs and fellowships to increase access to legal information in both continents. He highlighted opportunities for re-source sharing and joint statements, such as shared statements on the need for access to legal information during COVID, and collaborative efforts to add material to the Global Online Access to Legal Information (GOALI) database. Finally, he noted that AfLLIP members were interested in further opportunities to attend AALL conferences and publish in the AALL journal, and welcomed AALL members to attend AfLLIP’s first planned conference in Ghana and submit articles to AfLLIP’s planned journal. Hopefully, this webinar will be the start of many future collaborations between AALL and AfLLIP.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT #ENDSARS?

Try the following reading list, compiled by Yemisi Dina and Errol Adams:

- For selected live streaming of judicial proceedings - https://www.channelstv.com/
Resource Reviews: International Materials on Westlaw and Lexis: An Overview

Part of series of reviews prepared by the Electronic Research Interest Group

Janet Kearney

During the 2020 annual meeting, the Electronic Resources Interest Group discussed adding reviews of the international materials on these platforms: which countries are included; what’s the coverage like; is it worth looking at? So many law schools have access to these materials (and pay for them) without really being sure of what’s available. Here is a brief overview, with country-specific collections to come. This is from the perspective of an academic account in the main research platforms of Westlaw Edge and Lexis+ and does not include practical law options.

HOW WELL-KNOWN IS THE SOURCE?
We’ve all seen it tucked away on the Lexis and Westlaw database variations over the years: International Materials. My students tend to fall into two categories: 1) they have never seen this and assume there is nothing from another country on these platforms; 2) they think it will provide access to the US academic account equivalent - so full access to Westlaw UK, Westlaw China, etc. (Honestly, I tend to fall into type 1 for my own work.) As is usual, the truth falls somewhere in the middle - yes, these platforms do have materials from non-U.S. jurisdictions that can be useful and helpful, but no, they do not have everything you need (and of course, coverage varies widely).

HOW COMPREHENSIVE IS IT, IN TERMS OF ITS CONTENTS?
First, note that although they are termed “international,” these materials are usually foreign - the domestic law of a country other than your own - with the exception of European Union materials. Coverage varies widely between countries; or I should say, coverage varies WIDELY. Some countries listed may have only news sources (for example, Mongolia on Lexis+), and others may have cases, secondary sources, statutes, and news (for example, the United Kingdom on Lexis+). It appears that English-speaking countries have more materials, but I have not fully evaluated that.

It is important that you always check for coverage using the scope icon (the little i with the circle around it). Although we may be used to losing coverage of U.S. secondary sources on Westlaw and Lexis as publishers change or build their own databases (looking at you, WK), rarely do we encounter a loss of primary sources. This is not the case here; because of contracts with publishers and different ways of publishing legal information, it is very possible for sources to be removed. (When I was in law school, the Incorporated Council for Law Reporting (UK) provided PDFs of their reporters on Westlaw, but now they have their own platform and though some of the decisions can remain if you pay for them, academic users lost included access to all the PDFs - the horror!)

HOW EASY-TO-USE (USER-FRIENDLY) IS IT?
To navigate these materials, select the international materials section. You cannot search these materials without entering into these specific collections. On Lexis+, this is in the Explore section, directly under the main search box. On Westlaw Edge, it is under Specialty areas. Once you select that, a list of countries will load; select the country of interest (for Lexis+, you may need to select View All Countries). After you select a country, then there will appear a list of what is included, and you can select further into a collection to find the scope note.

The further you browse down into a collection, the more specific the scope note will be. For example, on Westlaw Edge, if I select International Materials - United Kingdom - Cases - All UK Cases, then I can see a list of all included reporters, and the scope note is a summary indicator that some cases from 1220 are available and some reporters have PDFs. If I select a specific reporter from that list, I can then use the scope note to find the years of coverage and the content.

Westlaw Edge does provide the option of searching by content type without selecting a jurisdiction (cases, treatises, journals, etc.). On Lexis+, you must go to international materials, select View All Countries, then select the “country” titled “Foreign Law” to find a search by content type.

All combined, this is not very difficult to navigate, but it does feel more difficult than US materials on the databases. (This does make sense, as that is what the platforms are designed for.) It may take time to adjust to the method, and it will also take an understanding of the underlying jurisdiction to determine what is not included.

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International Materials continued from page 4

HOW USEFUL IS IT IN TERMS OF ITS ABILITY TO ANSWER BOTH COMMON AND RARE (DIFFICULT-TO-FIND) QUESTIONS?

It’s difficult to make a general statement on usefulness because of how widely coverage varies, and it can be very dependent on what the user is searching for. There is certainly a good amount of useful information on it. I also find it a very useful teaching tool as an example for students that not everything is on Westlaw and Lexis and to illustrate the importance of a scope note.

If you would like to review the materials available from Lexis and Westlaw for a particular country for a future Resource Review, please contact Janet Kearney (jkearney15@fordham.edu) or Erin Gow (erin.gow@louisville.edu).

Coming Soon: 2021 FCIL-SIS Volunteer Survey

David Isom

In an effort to standardize the call for volunteers each year, the FCIL-SIS Executive Committee will soon be conducting its second annual Volunteer Survey to recruit new committee and IG members and chairs in advance of the 2021 Annual Meeting. We hope that you will consider responding to the survey and volunteering for one or more committee or IG! Historically, our SIS has filled committee positions on an ad hoc basis. We hope that by creating this survey and circulating it each year, we can create more robust committees and interest groups, allow for more frequent circulation in committee and IG leadership, and boost attendance at committee and IG meetings during the AALL conference. The survey will go live in April—look for announcements on the FCIL-SIS mailing list and DipLawMatic Dialogues.

FCIL Newsletter

FCIL Newsletter is a publication of the Foreign, Comparative, and International Law Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries. It is published in February, May, and October of each year. Current and past issues of FCIL Newsletter are available on our website. We welcome submissions. Contact us for more information.

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Our SIS is fortunate to include in its ranks exceptionally talented and enthusiastic writers. With this feature, we are happy to spread the word of their recent publications.

**SPECTRUM**

**JOURNAL ARTICLES**

*Law Library Journal*
- Deborah L. Heller, *To Cite or Not to Cite: Is That Still a Question?*, 112 Law Libr. J. 393 (2020).

*International Journal of Legal Information*

**BOOK REVIEWS**

*Law Library Journal*

*International Journal of Legal Information*


**BOOK CHAPTERS**

**RESEARCH GUIDES**
- Jonathan Pratter, UPDATE: *À la Recherche des Travaux Préparatoires: An Approach to Researching the Drafting History of International Agreements*, Globalex (January/February 2021)
- Jootaek Lee, *The Human Right to Education Research with an Annotated Bibliography*, Globalex (January/February 2021)

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**Member Publications**

Have you recently published an article or blog post? We would love to highlight it in our Recent Member Publications.

Send your information to Jingwei Zhang for the next issue.
Member Publications continued from page 6

BLOG POSTS
PEGA-SIS Blog
• Susan Gualtier, Show Us Your Shelfie

IALL Blog
• Charles Bjork & Mariana Newman, The Index to Foreign Legal Periodicals, the Only Multilingual Index to Legal Scholarship
• Kurt Carroll, Treaty of Canandaigua, 1794

DipLawMatic Dialogues
• Bianca Anderson, Report no.30 on COVID-19: Cuba’s Landmark Currency Unification Amidst Severe Economic Woes
• Bianca Anderson and Ana Delgado, Report no.33 on COVID-19: Education Through Televised Classes in Cuba and Community Efforts in Puerto Rico
• Meredith Capps, Teaching FCIL Research Online: The Particulars
• Meredith Capps, Teaching FCIL Research Online: To Synch or Not to Synch
• Meredith Capps, Teaching FCIL Research Online: Yes, You Can!
• Abby Dos Santos & Marilia Mello, Report no.10 on COVID-19: Special Update on Brazil
• Amy Flick, From the Reference Desk: “But I Want it in English!”
• Amy Flick, From the Reference Desk: Gangs and Human Rights in Central America’s Northern Triangle
• Marisol Floren, Report no.32 on COVID-19: Dominican Republic as the First of Many in the Region
• Juan Andres Fuentes, Report no.18 on COVID-19: Clinical Vaccine Trials in Peru
• Juan Andres Fuentes, Report no.17 on COVID-19: Peruvian Government’s Initial Reactions and First Measures
• Julienne Grant, Report no.14 on COVID-19: The Rule of Law in Ecuador During the Pandemic
• Erin Gow, European Legal Responses to COVID-19: Sweden
• Erin Gow, Researching Hate Crime Laws Around the World
• David Isom, European Legal Responses to COVID-19: Belgium
• David Isom, European Legal Responses to COVID-19: Luxembourg
• David Isom, European Legal Responses to COVID-19: Monaco
• David Isom, European Legal Responses to COVID-19: Switzerland
• Janet Kearney, Source-Pulling in the Time of COVID
• Barbara Krieger & Juan Andres Fuentes, Report no.23 on COVID-19: The Argentine Judiciary in Times of Necessary and Urgent Decrees
• Maria Eugenia Naiaretti & Juan Andres Fuentes, Report no.25 on COVID-19: Emergency Family Income and the Most Vulnerable Sectors in Argentina
• Maria Eugenia Naiaretti & Juan Andres Fuentes, Report no.24 on COVID-19: Access to Information and Law Libraries in Argentina
• Traci Emerson Spackey, 7 Things I’m Most Grateful For My First Year in FCIL
• Jonathan Pratter, From the Reference Desk: A Case of Nazi-looted Art in the Supreme Court
• Marília Mello & Abby Dos Santos, Report no.13 on COVID-19: A Day in the Life of a Brazilian Court Librarian
• Jonathan Pratter, From the Reference Desk: New Light on the General Principles of Law
• Daniela Reise & Abby Dos Santos, Report no.11 on COVID-19: Current Demands on Brazil’s Labor Courts
• Marcelo Rodríguez, Report no.14 on COVID-19: Venezuelan Refugees Left Stranded
• Marcelo Rodríguez, Report no.29 on COVID-19: Upcoming Presidential Elections in 2021
• Marcelo Rodríguez, Report no.36 on COVID-19: Solidarity in the Transgender Community While Facing Multiple Crises
• Dr. Michele A. L. Villagran, Report no.26 on COVID-19: Uruguay’s Early Use of Technology and Innovation

Submissions For Next Issue

FCIL Newsletter is looking for submissions for our next issue.

ARTICLES
Conference reports, library visits, exhibit descriptions, resource reviews, member news, etc. Open call for authors.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
May 1, 2021

QUESTIONS?
Contact Melissa Abernathy.