



# ILLEGAL SUSPENSION OF LAWMAKERS IN NIGERIA

Can the Courts Stop the Abuse of Legislative Power?

## Key Legal Precedents (2010 – 2024)

2010

Federal High Court declares the suspension of **Hon. Dino Melaye** & 10 others illegal, orders payment of withheld salaries.

2012

Bauchi State High Court nullifies the suspension of **Hon. Rifkatu Danna**, citing violation of her constituency's right to representation.

2017

Court of Appeal upholds judgment in **Hon. Rifkatu Danna's** case, ruling that lawmakers cannot withhold salaries of elected officials.

2017

The Federal High Court nullified the 90-day suspension imposed on **Senator Ali Ndume** by the Senate, declaring it illegal, unlawful, and unconstitutional. The court also ordered the Senate to pay him all outstanding salaries and allowances.

2018

**Hon. Abdulkummin Jibrin** wins case against his 180-day suspension; Federal High Court rules in his favor.

2018

The Federal High Court nullified the 90-day suspension imposed on **Senator Ovie Omo-Agege**, ordering the Senate to pay him any outstanding salary and allowances during the suspension period.

2019

**Hon. Friday Sani** was suspended by the Kogi State House of Assembly and challenged it in court. The Kogi State High Court ruled in his favor, declaring the suspension illegal and ordering his reinstatement. The Supreme Court later affirmed the judgment, ordering the payment of all outstanding salaries and allowances.

2020

The Jigawa High Court sitting in Dutse declared that the suspension of **Hon. Sani Iyaku** by the Jigawa State House of Assembly was illegal, null, and void. The court also ordered the payment of his withheld three-month allowances totaling N3 million.

2020

The Court of Appeal reinstates **three Ondo Assembly members**, warning against frivolous suspensions.

2024

**Sen. Abdul Ningi** suspended for budget-padding allegations but recalled before litigation commenced.

### The Latest Violation: Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan (2025)

Despite multiple court rulings against the suspension of lawmakers, the Senate suspended Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan. The Federal High Court had already restrained the Senate Ethics Committee from hearing the complaint against her. Yet, the Senate ignored this and proceeded with her suspension.



**NIGERIANS!** Call your senators to reinstate and follow due process!  
Visit [shinyoureye.org](http://shinyoureye.org) for contact details.



Source: Falana & Falana Chambers (March 2025)