

## Rights groups condemn soldiers' assault on woman

SIX women right groups on Thursday condemned the alleged assault of Ms Uzoma Okere by six armed naval ratings.

She was allegedly assaulted on her way back from work on Monday by the officers said to be attached to Rear Admiral, whose name was given as Arogundade.

Ms Okere was said to have been dragged out of her car and assaulted for not leaving the road for the convoy of the admiral.

The NGOs include the Project Alert on Violence Against Women (PAVAW), the Alliances for Africa, Media Concern Initiative for Women and Children, Kudirat Initiative for Democracy (KIND), Women's Advocate Research and Development Centre, the CLEEN Foundation, and the BAPBAB for Women's Human Rights.

At a press conference in Lagos addressed by the Executive Director of PAVAW, Josephine Effah-Chukwuma, the groups flayed the overzealousness displayed by the aides of some public official and called for public apology from the admiral.

They also demanded that appropriate disciplinary action be taken against the admiral and the ratings.

"Even if constitutionally, Nigerian road users are expected to give way to the sirens of certain categories of public office holders, must they be hounded, harassed and physically assaulted?"

"Considering the bad roads and traffic situation in a city like Lagos, it is not possible for one to immediately clear or stop on hearing a siren," the groups said.

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