



April 25, 2024

URGENT MATTER

Chris W. Marsh
Division Chief
Office of Overseas Citizens Services
Bureau of Consular Affairs

Re: Detention of Tigran Gambaryan in Nigeria.

Dear Division Chief Marsh:

We at National Whistleblower Center have been following Tigran Gambaryan's illegal detention in Nigeria with concern. National Whistleblower Center has been a leading voice for the protection of whistleblowers in the fight against global corruption since 1988. While we have no direct connection to Mr. Gambaryan nor represent him, we understand that he is not responsible for the illegal actions that Binance committed in Nigeria and has cooperated with authorities in both the United States and Nigeria prior to his detention.

The punishment of employees at a company that is committing illegal acts, who are not the decision-makers and who cooperate with authorities, is a serious problem. This is counter to the goals of the U.S. Strategy on Countering Corruption, as it creates a chilling effect upon employees, who might otherwise seek to cooperate with governments to expose further wrongdoing.

We ask that the United States use its best efforts to secure the release of Mr. Gambaryan. Establishing a clear precedent that employees who are not decision-makers and who cooperate with authorities will not be held responsible for the illegal actions of their company is important ensuring that employees continue to cooperate in the global fight against corruption.

Releasing Mr. Gambaryan is especially important given the serious crimes committed by Binance and the absolute necessity of obtaining cooperation from insiders such as Mr. Gambaryan to hold such companies as Binance responsible. The ability of the United States to obtain cooperation of insiders like Mr. Gambaryan is recognized in the U.S. Strategy on Countering Corruption as "a core national security interest of the United States," especially within the cryptocurrency industry where the illegal conduct is largely committed overseas and more difficult to detect.

3238 P Street, NW
Washington, DC 20007
whistleblowers.org

Thank you in advance of your careful attention to these matters. We look forward to meeting with you and discussing this this with you further. Please feel free to contact me on my personal email, [REDACTED].

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Stephen M. Kohn
Stephen M. Kohn
Chairman of the Board of Directors
National Whistleblower Center
3238 P Street NW,
Washington, DC 20007

[REDACTED]
www.whistleblowers.org

/s/ Siri Nelson
Siri Nelson
Executive Director
National Whistleblower Center
3238 P Street NW,
Washington, DC 20007
(202) 342-1903
info@whistleblowers.org
www.whistleblowers.org