



Egbe Omo Yoruba, NA



World Igbo Congress



Zumunta USA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A CALL TO ACTION: GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO PROTECT THE NIGERIAN CITIZENRY

Washington, DC December 8, 2008... Leadership of the three Nigerian apex Socio-cultural groups in the Diaspora, Egbe Omo Yoruba North America, World Igbo Congress, Inc. and Zumunta Association USA Inc., call on the Plateau State Governor Jonah Jang to urgently order an immediate investigation of the causes of the inhumane acts of violence that was perpetrated in Jos by various unscrupulous elements; expedite the prosecution of the guilty to the fullest extent of the law regardless of who they may be; and implement relevant recommendations that will end, once and for all these recurring acts of avoidable violence.

Further, we call for the exhumation and identification of all deceased persons from any and all mass graves for proper burial by their families. Those innocent victims who lost their lives were not cattle who died from an infectious disease needing a mass grave. In addition, we call on the Federal government of Nigeria to provide assurance of safety to all Nigerians as guaranteed under the Constitution, regardless of where they may choose to reside. If this guarantee cannot be asserted, then the basis of this administration is very questionable.

On another matter, members of the three major socio-cultural groups representing most Nigerians living in the Diaspora, call for an end to the shameful circus of intimidation by various Nigerian Law Enforcement authorities of the man that once epitomized a wave of change in bringing corrupt Nigerians to order. Ever since the inauguration of President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, it appears that his administration has made it a point to humiliate, harass and put down Mr. Nuhu Ribadu, a man whose accomplishments have been heralded worldwide as a move towards a new progressive Nigeria. Such persons deserve to be nurtured and provided with all the support they need. It is a shame that under the watchful eye of the Law-and-Order President, the fight against corruption in Nigeria appears to have been relegated to the back-burner. It would be a disgrace and a bad legacy should Mr. Ribadu end up like the late Chief Bola Ige former Attorney General of the Federation.

Since this case is now in the courts, we call on the Inspector General of Police Mike Okiro, his operative, and all parties involved to allow the legal case to take its path and ask all including Mr. Ribadu to abide by the results of the courts whatever they may be.

Security of live and property in Nigeria have continued to be a topic of increasing concern to all Nigerians, particularly those that live in the Diaspora. We are seriously concerned about the rampant kidnapping of individuals for ransom in Nigeria, especially in the South-Eastern and South-South States of the Nation. This trend is unacceptable and we explicitly condemn this immoral act. We call on all law enforcement authorities at all levels in the Country to employ all available security measures to immediately stop the ugly development. Security of lives and property as well as freedom of movement is an intrinsic privilege of Nigerian citizenship that cannot and must never be compromised.

We urge all Governors, as the chief security officer of their states, to publicly reassure the world by their actions, that life, property, and freedom of movement for business or personal reasons within their jurisdictions are intact and assured.

In conclusion, one cannot but observe that the central theme for this statement is the lack of adequate security in Nigeria. We beckon on the security agents at all levels to be vigilant and work to protect all as enshrined in the Nigerian Constitution they have all sworn to uphold.

THE WORLD IS WATCHING.

SIGNED THIS 8th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2008:

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