



EGBÉ OMO YORÙBÁ

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF YORÙBÁ DESCENDANTS IN NORTH AMERICA
USA AND CANADA**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OAKLAND, CA., November 12, 2005...The National Executive Council (NEC) of the Egbé Omo Yorùbá (Egbé), North America, the association's highest decision-making organ, held its fourth quarterly meeting last weekend. The meeting, which was hosted by the Egbé's Northern California Chapter, the Òdúdúwà Heritage Organization, San Francisco-Oakland, was attended by majority of its regional Chapter Presidents and was chaired by its National President, Adéolá Òdúsànyà. The meeting was the first one held since its National Convention held in Atlanta, Georgia last August.

At the meeting, the Egbé conferred on the Unity of the Yorùbá people, the resolution from the recently concluded "Yorùbá Summit," the protection of Yorùbá interests within the Nigerian Federation and the recent arrest of the leaders of the Yorùbá Stabilization and Development groups. At the end of the meeting, the Egbé made the following observations:

1. Egbé Omo Yorùbá notes with dismay the arrest of Òtúnba Gàní Adams and Dr. Frederick Fásehùn, leaders of Yorùbá Stabilization and Development groups. While Egbé Omo Yorùbá believes in the supremacy of the rule of law in a democratic ethos and thus believes that people who have committed crimes must be subjected to the rule of law, the Egbé frowns upon a fascist-like notion of guilty by association that appears to be the rationale for the arrests. Arresting and detaining leaders of associations reminds us of those dark days of dictatorship when spouses and children of suspected persons were arrested and detained with impunity. Nigerians need not be brought back to dark years of draconian military rulers.
2. The Egbé continues to note with concern, the notion that certain evil sycophantic elements within the nation who wish to see an end to democracy in Nigeria, continue to pressure President Olúségún Obásanjó and spin the rest of the Nation on the idea of a "President for Life."
3. The Egbé noted with concern that the impertinence exhibited by Ibrahim Sulu Gambari the Emir of Ilorin, regarding the fatal Ìlórín crises, which he single handedly created by his actions and disregard for the law, culture, history, and civil protocol, dating back to his turbaning during the Abacha era. The Egbé reminds everyone that the Àfònjá Family of Ìlórín is the primary family in Ilorin recognized to represent all Yorùbá in the Ilorin vicinity.
4. On the issue of Yorùbá Unity, Egbé Omo Yorùbá noted with trepidation, the various conflicts for succession in various areas of Yorùbáland, especially in the area of political succession. The NEC also noted the yearnings in the general populace for peaceful, smooth and productive succession and an end to turbulent and strife ridden exercises that result in loss of live. The NEC also noted with dismay, the various internecine conflicts within and between communities that undermine Yorùbá unity and strength and concluded that the Yorùbá stand to gain more from unity than from fragmentation.

In view of the foregoing, the National Executive Council of the Egbé Omo Yorùbá, North America hereby strongly urges the following:

1. That President Olúṣégún Obásanjó, the Minister of Justice and other agents of the Federal Government of Nigeria release immediately, Òtúnba Gàní Adams and Dr. Frederick Fásehùn. On the other hand, if they are suspected of committing any crime(s), then the government should clearly state their crime(s) along with the evidence supporting any alleged crime(s) and speed up their trial instead of incarcerating these leaders without trial or bail.
2. That President Olúṣégún Obásanjó not yield to the temptation and fall into the trap of trying to extend his two terms to a third term. The Egbe restates the resolution of the “Yoruba Summit” that:
“All Yorùbá elected officers who have served for the maximum period of two (2) terms according to the Constitution must vacate their offices at the end of their terms in 2007. This is the tradition of the Yorùbá people who are not known for indulgence in abuse of office or power. This is more so in the case of President Obásanjó who has been known to have respected his integrity as the first military head of state to vacate office voluntarily.”
3. That the Federal Government investigate the crisis at Ìlórín and the use of government machineries for the destruction of private property with a purpose of allaying the fears of the Yorùbá community in general and the Yorùbá in Kwara in particular and prevent a recurrence of the events that led to destruction, lives lost and the ill-advised conferment of Balógun chieftaincy titles by Alhaji Ibrahim Sulu Gambari. The Egbe further urges President Olúṣégún Obásanjó to call for the implementation and compliance by the Kwara State Government and the Alhaji Ibrahim Sulu Gambari with the terms of settlement by the Reconciliatory Committee without delay.
4. That all politically motivated conflicts in Yorùbá land cease forthwith and all parties to all conflicts begin immediately, the process of coming to the negotiating table for amicable settlement of their differences and for cooperation. With the Election of 2007 forthcoming, the Egbé remind all that all Yorùbá need to be focused, united and work for the best interest of all Yorùbá and not let anti-Yorùbá elements continue to cause unrest amongst our peace loving People.

SIGNED:|
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