



NGWA NATIONAL ASSOCIATION USA (NNAUSA), INC

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OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT GOODLUCK JONATHAN AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA ON KIDNAPPING, RAPE, TERRORISM AND OTHER ORGANIZED CRIMES IN NGWA LAND

For more than two years, the Ngwa people of Abia State Nigeria have lived in terror. Kidnapping and hostage-taking activities within the nine Local Governments Areas of the Abia State of Nigeria that comprise the Ngwa-Ukwa Clan namely: Aba South, Aba North, Obingwa, Osisioma, Ugwuagbor, Isiala Ngwa South, Isiala Ngwa North, Ukwa East and Ukwa West, have increased tremendously with time. The entire population, including men, women, children and infants, has been subjected to organized rape, torture, maiming, armed robbery, and other crimes against humanity.

In the past, the police and other security apparatus dispatched to Abia state by the Federal Government have resorted to extorting money from the residents instead of addressing the security issues for which they were deployed. Within the last 10 months, over a thousand Ngwa people including women and children have been held hostage by violent criminals, abducted, kidnapped, raped, tortured or killed by these hardened criminals and terrorists operating in Abia State. Even as we write, numerous individuals, some of them in their 70s and 80s, including both husbands and wives are still being held in captivity with millions of naira in ransom being demanded on their heads. The families fear for their safety and security.

The Ngwa National Association, USA, (NNAUSA), Inc. an umbrella organization of Ngwas in Diaspora and the entire Ngwa people of Abia State, categorically condemn the act of kidnapping for ransom in Ngwaland, in our communities and in any other community for that matter. That this heinous act has become so rampant in Ngwaland is abhorrent and violates everything our people believe in, as well as the morals our ancestors inculcated in us as a community.

We commend the recent effort of the President, His Excellency Goodluck Jonathan, in deploying troops to the Ngwa/Ukwa Area of Abia State in an effort to tackle this state of insecurity in these areas and root suffering, abuse and personal violations our people have endured and continue to endure as a result of the activities of these criminals, no amount of effort should be spared in ensuring their complete annihilation and providing solutions to the root causes of violent crimes in Ngwa/Ukwa Area.

CONSEQUENTLY, WE HEREBY CALL ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA TO:

1. Maintain and sustain the deployment of Military Troops in Abia State as long as is necessary. We very strongly urge President Jonathan to resist the expediency of withdrawing the troops based on short-term success because this will only serve as a temporary remedy.

2. Extend the Military presence to inner villages within the Ngwa/Ukwa LGAs and not just in Aba. The concentration of troops in Aba may simply drive the criminals into the remote villages where they will continue to wreak havoc on unprotected citizens.
3. Institute an independent Truth Commission to investigate, check and control the security situation in Abia State, especially the kidnapping and terrorist activities in the Local Government Areas of Aba South, Aba North, Obi Ngwa, Isiala Ngwa South, Isiala Ngwa North, Osisioma and Ugwuagbor. There must be an investigation of illegal arms trafficking in Abia State and States in South-South zone and the Country as a whole. All those truly proven to be involved in carrying out kidnapping or aiding, abetting, and benefiting from these acts must be fully prosecuted.
4. Arrest and prosecute to the fullest extent of the law any person or group of persons found aiding, abetting, participating or benefiting from kidnapping and other crimes.
5. Provide a mechanism by which individuals could safely and anonymously report suspects within their communities that are involved in these crimes.
6. Establish Federal Aid Programs and encourage the state government to do the same to the victims of these kidnapping and terrorist acts in Abia State.
7. Reopen manufacturing industries in Aba and create employment opportunities for idle youths. It is better for opportunities to be created for youths to be gainfully employed than begging to reward them with amnesty when they have already turned to hardened criminals.
8. Immediately re-organize the cell phone industry to ensure that every cell phone number is registered and be traceable to a validated subscriber. To mandate each phone carrier to provide law enforcement with phone-call to tower-uplink and downlink manifest for any violent crime involving the use of the phone.

WE CALL ON PRESIDENT GOODLUCK JONATHAN TO DECLARE A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN ABIA STATE, SUSPEND ALL POLITICAL ACTIVITIES AND APPOINT ADMINISTRATORS TO TAKE CHARGE FROM THE STATE THROUGH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEVELS IF THE CURRENT DEPLOYMENT OF TROOPS DOES NOT STOP THESE HEINOUS CRIMES.

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