

THE RUNNER

Onitsha crisis: CLO urges FG to unmask culprits

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Onitsha

THE Federal Government has been urged to unmask the influential politicians alleged to be backing the armed groups causing the riots in Onitsha, Anambra State.

This step is believed to be a more realistic solution to the crisis than the deployment of riot policemen and

soldiers in the city, which at best can only provide a momentary solution.

The call was contained in a letter the Anambra State chapter of the Civil Liberties Organisation sent to President Olusegun Obasanjo obtained by our correspondent on Wednesday.

The document with reference number CLO/ANSB/VOL. 01/06/06/FGN/ABJ/

the suspected financiers of the groups were apprehended and prosecuted, the Presidency should expect more of such crises in the future.

It noted that, from the CLO's records, over 23 lives had been lost in Anambra State since January in clashes linked to the National Association of Road Transport Owners, the Movement for the Actuali-

sation of the Sovereign State of Biafra, the police and other armed groups.

The letter jointly signed by the state Chairman, Mr. Emeke Umeagbalasi, and the Secretary, Mr. Aloysius Attah, added that property worth millions of naira and many productive hours had also been lost to the problem.

The CLO was worried that, despite the fact that the groups were outlawed,

they still operated with impunity, with the police believed to be openly shielding NARTO in particular.

According to the organisation, unmasking the sponsors of the groups will bring peace to the state since some of them are alleged to be highly connected.

The CLO letter read in part, "We condemn, unservedly, the nefarious activities of these homicidal groups above-mentioned. We condemn any form of support towards their criminal activities.

"We align ourselves with Your Excellency's reported dispassionate interest to tackling this hydra-headed monster, head-on. The steps taken so far by the new Anambra Governor, Mr. Peter Obi, are highly appreciated. But extreme measures must be taken to ensure that people's liberties are not grossly undermined."

260	Mohammed Jibril Basha	Kwara
261	Mohammed K. Mohammed	Borno
262	Mohammed Kachalla Adamu	Kwara
263	Mohammed Ndaqi Kuchila	Gombe
264	Mohammed Umar Bose	Kaduna
265	Mohammed Kabir Ahmed	

352	Omerika Johnson N.	Imo
353	Omerikatu Chidenna Ada	Abia
354	Omerikatu Emmanuel Chinedu	Imo
355	Omerika Chidenna	Abia
356	Omerika Chidenna Abiodun	Ogun
357	Omerika Chidenna Emedet	Lagos

438	Yusuf Haruna	Yusuf Haruna Mohammed
439	Yusuf Haruna	
440	Yusuf Rabi Maiman	
441	Yusuf Suleiman Sule	
442	Yusuf Ateez Adiole	