

# NEWS

By Nnamdi Ojiego, Levinus Nwabughlogu, Dayo Johnson, Johnbosco Agbakwuru & Oziuruva Aliu

Outrage greeted yesterday the abduction and killing of Olajide Felix Sowore, younger brother of the Publisher of Sahara Reporters and convener of Revolution Now Movement, Omoyele Sowore.

This happened just as Governor Godwin Obaseki of Edo State vowed to get security agencies to investigate the murder and bring perpetrators to book.

Among those outraged by the murder are Minister of State for Labour and Employment, Mr. Festus Keyamo, SAN; the Minority Leader of the House of Reps, Hon. Ndudi Elumelu; the senator representing Ondo South, Nicholas Tofowomo, and human rights activist, Femi Falana, SAN, amongst others.

The killing apparently underscored the heightening insecurity in the country that has seen even school children being abducted by bandits and killed.

The Sahara Reporters Publisher had, in a statement early yesterday, announced that his "immediate younger brother, Olajide Sowore, was shot and killed near Okada, Edo State by reportedly herdsmen/kidnappers on his way from Igbinedion University where he was studying pharmacy."

Edo State Police Command confirmed the incident.

The Command's spokesman, Bello Kontongs disclosed that, in addition to killing the younger Sowore, the suspected kidnappers abducted five unidentified persons.

Kontongs said: "This is to confirm to you that suspected kidnappers at about 0645hrs along Lagos-Benin Expressway by Isuwa, kidnapped five unidentified persons and on (sic) the process shot to death one Sowore Felix Olajide, male, a pharmacy student of Igbinedion University, Okada. His remains have been deposited at IUTH mortuary Okada, while effort is ongoing to rescue the five kidnap victims."

Obaseki, in a statement, vowed that efforts would be intensified to bring the culprits to book.

"The news of Olajide's death is heartbreaking and we will make all efforts to bring the perpetrators of the dastardly act to justice," the Edo governor said.

"On behalf of the people and Government of Edo State, I condole with the Sowore family and pray that God will grant all the fortitude to bear the irreparable loss."

## Keyamo commiserates

Keyamo, in a condolence letter to the human rights activist, urged him to take heart and remain committed to helping the nation to find a lasting solution to some of its numerous challenges.

He called on law enforcement agencies to work hard to fish out those behind the dastardly act.

## 'Govt overwhelmed, helpless'

The Minority Caucus of the House of Representatives, Elumelu, condemned the unabating killing of Nigerians, particularly youths.

A statement by Elumelu urged the police to immediately fish out the killers of the pharmacy student

# Outrage as gunmen kill Sowore's sibling, Obaseki talks tough

"It is indeed heartbreaking that our nation's promising young ones are being daily felled and maimed by bandits, terrorists and kidnappers who are now freely marauding our country, while the government looks overwhelmed and helpless," he said.

## Govt has failed — Falana

Reacting, Falana said the latest killing has, once again, confirmed that nobody was safe in Nigeria.

He wrote: "It is extremely disturbing but all these devel-

opments confirm that nobody is safe in the country. That is why we all have to redouble our efforts in getting out people to defend themselves because that is where we are."

"The government has failed. Apart from verbal assurances from the government, from the presidency, where everybody is for himself and God for all of us, and when it gets to that stage, you have to mobilise the people to defend themselves and that's where we are."

## 'National

# Olu of Warri in the eyes of Nigerian govts

By Jimitota Onoyume

Nigeria Governors Forum, NGF, has congratulated Ogiame Atuwatse III, the Olu of Warri, on his ascension to the throne of his forefathers, assuring that they will work with the monarch for the common good of the nation.

Chairman of the NGF, Dr. Kayode Feyemi, who spoke yesterday when he paid homage to the new monarch on behalf of the 36 governors in the federation, said the monarch reinvented the nation positively before the world with his inaugural ad-

dress during his coronation ceremony at Ode Itsekiri, ancestral home of Itsekiri nation, Warri South local government area, Delta state.

"It is my pleasure and delight to be here before you. On behalf of the Nigerian governors, the 35 of us, apart from myself here. You have received over the last two weeks some individual visits from some of our members. As governors representing the entire federation, we formally present ourselves here to congratulate you and the entire Warri Kingdom for God's presence in this kingdom", he said.

## disgrace'

In his condolence message, the senator representing Ondo South at the Senate, Nicholas Tofowomo, lamented that evil men have just stopped a good heart from beating.

Tofowomo, in a statement in Akure by his Special Assistant, Olumide Akinrinola, described the murder as a national disgrace.

## MURIC charges police

Meanwhile, an Islamic hu-

man rights advocacy group, Muslim Rights Concern, MURIC, condemned the killing of the Pharmacy student.

The group, in a statement

by its Director and founder, Professor Ishaq Akintola, charged the police and other security agencies to find the killers of

# Why drug test is essential to stable marriage — Marwa

Chairman/Chief Executive of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA, Brig. Gen. Mohamed Buba Marwa (rtd), has buttressed the need for pre-marital drug test as a key factor to a stable home.

Marwa spoke at a conference organised by an NGO, Coal to Diamond Support Network for young adults, yesterday, in Abuja, where his wife, Hajia Munirat Marwa, who is the chief host of the event also emphasized the need for drug test before marriage, warning that drugs are destroying many marriages, families and communities.

While warning on the dire consequences of drug abuse, Marwa, who was represented at the conference by She-

hu Dankolo, a Principal Staff Officer on Drug Demand Reduction in NDLEA, said "substance use has been known not only to destroy marriages but equally lead to health problems, morbidity, injuries, violence, and death. Most often, the physical, psychological and social consequences of drug use are very obvious and disturbing."

According to him, "the mental, physical and spiritual quality of life of individuals has definite impact on a society's future." He said it would be couples choose to undergo HIV and genotype tests before marriage without any law compelling them. They should equally consider drug test as critical to their wellbeing and stability of their home.

# NDUME MEETS BUHARI, BLOWS HOT

## Surrendered terrorists have blood in their hands, must be prosecuted

By Johnbosco Agbakwuru

Chairman, Senate Committee on Army, Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume, has insisted that members of Boko Haram who have surrendered should not be profiled, interrogated and those with blood in their hands must be prosecuted.

Ndume (Borno South), spoke with State House correspondents after meeting with President Muhammadu Buhari at the State House, Abuja.

The former Senate Leader said the former insurgents, especially those that have blood in their hands, cannot be let go just because they have surrendered.

According to him, even though there may be innocent persons among them, some of who may have been used as slaves and human shields, they must all be processed according to national and international laws.

He maintained that since they have surrendered, they cannot be summarily executed just as no one has the right to let them go without following due process of the law.

Asked about his position on reintegrating the former insurgents into the Borno society, Ndume said: "My stance on this has not changed, only that maybe people interpret it the way they want. There is a national law that should guide all these and there's international law that guides this because this is not the first time we're having this sort of challenge in various countries."

"Normally, when you get to war level, you are expected to either defeat the enemy, or the

enemy surrenders. Once the enemy surrenders, you lose the right of summarily executing him because he is an enemy."

"You also don't have the right to summarily declare him innocent and say, 'Oh, you have sinned, go and sin no more'."

"What I'm saying initially, and I still maintain this position, in as much as we welcome the surrendering of the Boko Haram, it is very important that we follow due process, according to the law of the land and the international law."

"That is to say, take them in, profile them, process them, investigate them, interrogate them and then those that are innocent should be let go and those that have blood in their hands, they should be appropriately prosecuted."

"Once the person surrenders, now he has an advantage. Once you surrender, you cannot just be summarily convicted, you will be given the right to go to court and declare your innocence or otherwise. That is what I'm asking for."

"I'm also saying that as long as the war is continuing, it is now time to apply the carrot and stick approach. While we are prosecuting the war rigorously, in order to bring it to an end, a window is there available to tell those that are willing to surrender that you can surrender and then you will be processed accordingly."

"After that defeat or after the war has come to an end and the window is there for them to surrender as they are surrendering in droves now, they should be processed, they should be investigated."



From left: Secretary, All Progressives Congress Local Government Congress Committee for Ogun State, Mukhtar Yakassai; Chairman, Wale Olu; and member, Wale Adelan, during a meeting with the party's electoral officers at the party secretariat in Abeokuta yesterday



From left: Ifeanyi Chlemeke, Volunteer Instructor, Olufunke Akinloye, Initiator Code Zone, Blaise Isichel, Volunteer Instructor and Michael Umoren Volunteer Instructor at the just concluded Code Zone 2021, a summer coding program for teens and pre-teens.

# FALANA HITS FG: No grazing route anywhere in Nigeria

\*KUKAH: Difficult to take in things happening  
\*S/Court Justice Nweze: Nation bitterly divided

By Levinus Nwabughlogu,

Lagos lawyer, Mr. Femi Falana, yesterday, took the Buhari administration to task over the committee it set up to identify grazing routes across the country, saying the Federal Government has no such routes anywhere.

Falana spoke on a day Bishop Matthew Kukah of the Diocese of Sokoto of the Catholic Church said it was diffi-

cult to take in the things happening in Nigeria.

On his part, Supreme Court Justice Chima Nweze lamented that the nation is bitterly divided on religious, ethnic and ideological lines.

The eminent Nigerians spoke at the inauguration of the Old Seminars Association of Nigeria of the Catholic Church.

The Clerk of the House of Representatives, Chinedu Akubueze, who's the Chair-

man of the association, said they were going to explore the diverse membership to solve many socio-political challenges facing the country.

Delivering his key note address, Nweze, who's a member of the association, urged the Church and the Priests to always contribute to the national discourse in the best interest of the country and the people.

Speaking on the topic, "Age

Quid Agis: the Route to National Cohesion and Integration, the concept of Good Neighbour", he said: "Nigeria is, highly, divided along ethnic, religious, political and ideological lines. This division comes with serious suspicion, distrust, and hatred among the diverse citizens. Efforts towards national integration as national interest and project in Nigeria is challenged by corruption, baseless party politics and worse of all, insecurity."

"The country, in the face of these challenges, requires that

its citizens think beyond their differences to propel the nation into maximising its potentials towards the actualization of greatness. It should be noted that without love encapsulated in good neighbourliness being imbibed by the citizens, the different components that make up the country will persist as dividing factors among the people."

"In my humble view, emboldened by the mandate of the dogmatic Constitution, the Nigerian Church should now espouse what a theologian once called 'the evangelisation of human structures'. That is a new approach which

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