



OGBE-IJOH WARRI KINGDOM GOVERNING COUNCIL

Motto: PEACE, UNITY & JUSTICE

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OGBE-IJOH/ALADJA BOUNDARY DISPUTE: PRESS STATEMENT ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Gentlemen of the press, once again we have gathered here to inform the world of the persistent and consistent attacks on Ogbeloh indigenes along the Aladja/Ogbeloh road by unknown persons. The recent victim is Pastor Sylvester Yerinbide of the Redeemed Christian Church of God, Ogbeloh Branch, who was tortured to death by assailants. Pastor Sylvester Yerinbide on the 29th of October 2021, left Ogbeloh at about 06:22pm to attend an all-night vigil at Aladja organized by the Redeemed Christian Church of God, Aladja Branch and was attacked by assailants at Aladja. The assailants after inflicting grievous bodily harms, used the Motorcycle (okada) he was riding to press him to the ground and was in that state till a commercial Motorcyclist saw him and took him to Government General Hospital Ogbeloh and was later referred to a private hospital in Warri where he died.

We also recall similar incidents on the 15th of October 2019 where Mr. Taylor Ogofoh was shot dead in the process of clearing the surrounding of his house in Ogbeloh town. Also on 10th of October, 2018, Mr. Wilson Oborogha was almost killed while clearing surrounding of his compound in Ogbeloh. Similarly, in November 2017, Mr. Samson Bebebo was beheaded in a fish pond while carrying out his legitimate business. The Government of Delta State and Security Agencies in Delta State are aware that since the return of the "conditional Peace" brokered by the Aladja/Ogbeloh Peace Vanguard on the 10th of July 2019, there have been one form of calamity or the other against the Ogbeloh people. There have been persistent and consistent attacks on both human and buildings on daily basis. From records available, since July 10, 2019 to date, more than ten (10) persons have been attacked leading to grievous bodily harms - maimed, disfigured and amputated and killed. Also within this period, a number of buildings have been either set ablaze or doors/windows and other interior fittings were destroyed in Ogbeloh.

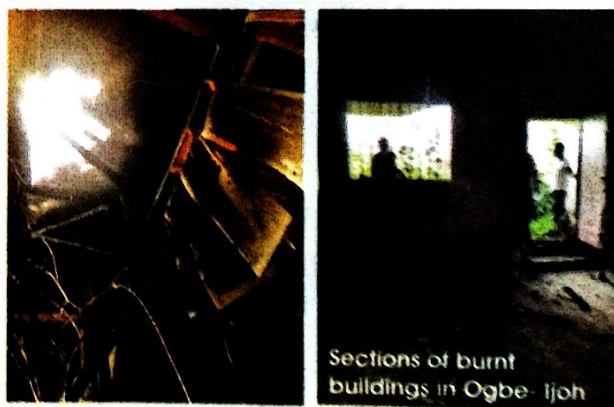
We also recall the series of peace accord/agreement entered with Government and security agencies and the flagrant violations on the part of Aladja Community as well as inaction of Government and security agencies in this regard. Furthermore, we recall the numerous attacks on Ogbeloh since 24th of March, 2016 to date. At the last count, Ogbeloh has been attacked more than 21 times and all these attacks are documented. It is rather unfortunate that the Delta State Government failed to arrest this situation making Aladja community to feel above the law. We have given the Delta State Government all the support and cooperation the Government needs to restore lasting peace to the two communities, but Government choose to play politics with the boundary dispute. The Government of Delta State called for an EXPANDED SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING and took a decision which is fair enough to both parties but Government failed to implement. The Government of Delta State is in possession of all the security reports and is better informed to take definite stand on the boundary dispute but yet Government refused to do the needful as required. Furthermore, the Government of Delta State cannot claim ignorance of all the atrocities meted out to the Ogbeloh people and chose to remain silent in all of these as a Government is quite disturbing.

It is sad however to note that Government of Delta State finds it extremely difficult to demarcate the boundary of the two local Government councils, Udu and Warri South West as recognised by existing boundary laws in Nigeria and as maintained by successive Government from 1955 to date. It is indeed sad that the Delta State Government despite having all the facts of the matters with specific reference to Western Region Legal Notice No 176 of 1955, instrument establishing the boundary line of the two local Government and others. We are surprised that the Delta State Government is not doing enough to permanently resolve the boundary dispute between Ogbeloh and Aladja. In our view, the failure of Delta State Government to take definite stand on the boundary dispute and deal squarely with defaulting party is primarily responsible for the incessant attacks and killing of Ogbeloh indigenes.

Arising from the above, the Ogbeloh Warri Kingdom Youth Council issued a 14-day ultimatum for the relevant bodies to fish out the culprits and as leaders irrevocably committed to peace, we have intervened and advised our youths to discontinue the ultimatum and continue to maintain the peace despite the unwarranted and unprovoked attacks. We therefore call on Government, especially the Commandant Nigeria Army Effurun Barracks who called for security meeting of parties with a view to preventing reprisal



Pastor Sylvester Yerinbide ... tortured to death



Sections of burnt buildings in Ogbeloh

attack to do all that is needed to fish out the culprits as we will not accept any attempt to silence investigation like previous cases.

Signed:

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Chairman, Ogbeloh Warri Kingdom Governing Council

Mr. Peter London

Secretary, Ogbeloh Warri Kingdom Governing Council

Comrade James Etimadimene

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Elder Samuel Igboemena

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