



International Society For Civil Liberties & The Rule Of Law



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Status: Int'l Human Rights & Justice Campaign

Campaigner: Int'l Society for Civil Liberties & Rule of Law (Nigeria)

Address: 41, Miss Elems Street, 430003, Onitsha, Eastern Nigeria

Destination: United States of America (USA)

Recipient:

Mr. Mike R. Pompeo, United States Secretary of State (DoS)

The State Department, Harry S. Truman's Building, 2201 C Street, Northwest

Washington, DC, 20520, United States

Dear Secretary of State,

Request For Visa Ban & Other Diplomatic Sanctions Against Army Chief, Buratai & Other Listed Serving & Former Senior Security & Political Officials In Nigeria Over Their Involvement In Gross Rights Abuses & Anti Democratic Conducts

Your Excellency, above subject matter refers.

About Us: **International Society for Civil Liberties & the Rule of Law** is a registered non-governmental and nonprofit human rights, democracy, rule of law and public security and safety advocacy group in Nigeria since 2008. It is based in Onitsha (430003), Southeast part of Eastern Nigeria (+234). **Intersociety** thematically campaigns for respect, promotion and advancement of *democracy and good governance, civil liberties and rule of law and public security and safety*. It has also earned a name in research, investigation, documentation and publications. **Intersociety** is led by professionals and grassroots activists including criminologists, security studies experts, lawyers, journalists and peace and conflict resolution experts. Our website/URL is: www.intersociety-ng.org.

Commendation: The recent public announcement by the US Department of State headed by Your Excellency, of imposition of visa ban on yet to be publicly disclosed senior political officials and actors in Nigeria over their anti democratic roles in the recently held general elections of 2019 in the country is a commendable bold step. Which is why we are compelled by our conscience to write Your Excellency and the Department of State; seeking for the extension of the visa ban and other diplomatic sanctions to Nigeria's serving and former key security and political players over their roles in 'industrial scale' or gross human rights abuses and violations in the country or any part thereof.

Need For Inclusion Of Other Culpable Political & Security Officials In The Ban: It will be very unfair, Your Excellency, to only target and sanction political office holders and other political actors, leaving out top leaders of the Nigerian security forces who brazenly and rapaciously deployed and used the State instruments of coercion against millions of defenseless Nigerian voters, party agents and INEC officials; to the extent of shooting and killing some and maiming others before and during the polls.

From various international poll observers' reports, scores were killed or maimed by soldiers; with millions of voters terrorized and forced to scamper for safety from poll arenas. There are also dozens of serving and former top political and security officials who had since August 2015 indulged in gross rights abuses and violations leading to mass murder of thousands of defenseless Nigerians and maiming of others. Till date, they are walking the Nigerian and int'l streets freely with impunity.

Army Chief, Buratai & Others As Enemies Of Human Rights & Democracy: Nigeria's Chief of Army Staff, Lt Gen Tukur Yusuf Buratai, for instance, was caught in the visual media, threatening millions of Nigerian registered voters few days to the country's Presidential and Governorship polls particularly in areas considered as the opposition strongholds. As if that was not enough, he ordered and deployed soldiers few meters away from polling units and in some cases at the polling and collation centers. Soldiers were caught in the visual media shooting indiscriminately at voters particularly in the oil rich South-south region of Nigeria (i.e. Rivers State) and parts of Northern Nigeria considered to be Christian strongholds.

In Rivers and Bayelsa States, South-south Nigeria, soldiers were caught shooting their way into INEC collation centers, leading to the shooting and killing of the duo of Dr. Ferry Gberegbe and Miss. Ibisaki Amachreee and maiming of scores of others. Soldiers also brazenly aided the snatching and stuffing of ballot boxes in places like Rivers State, etc. The Army Chief of Staff, Lt Gen Tukur Buratai, had earlier, against all known procedures and ethics of modern military tradition and its civil roles under democracy; made a public pronouncement, ordering the Nigerian Military to comply to the letter the 'shoot at sight' order given by the person of Mr. President of Nigeria. Buratai specifically ordered his soldiers to go after "poll robbers" and "ballot box snatchers" and open fire on them as presidentially ordered.

Totality of these led to infliction of mass fears or psychological terrorization of tens of millions of registered voters; forcing them off the polling centers. Those who dared to come out were chased away or shot at or beaten and tortured or shot and wounded; to the extent that not less than 40 died on Election Day including scores killed by soldiers; with a total of 233 persons killed in 67 pre-election violence across Nigeria between October 2018 when electioneering commenced and the Eve of the Presidential Poll on 23rd Feb 2019.

Therefore, Your Excellency, to be included in the list of those placed on visa ban from entering USA for their anti democratic conducts in the 2019 General Elections in Nigeria are Lt Gen Tukur Buratai, Nigeria's Chief of Army Staff, Col Sagir Musa, the Nigerian Army Spokesman; the then GOC, Commanding the 6 Division of the Nigerian Army, Port Harcourt in Rivers State, Major Gen Jamil Sarham and the Deputy Army Spokesman of the 6 Division, Col Aminu Illiyasu. Others are the current GOC of the 1st Division of the Nigerian Army, Kaduna, Major Gen Faruk Yakubu, the then Commissioner of Police in the State, Ahmad Abdulrahman and other culpable top security officials in the area.

Kaduna State in Northwest Nigeria was also one of the States where soldiers were used to subvert the electoral wishes of the people and promote religious violence (i.e. ceaseless massacre of Christians and Shiite Muslims). The State Gov, Mallam Nasiru el-Rufai, had weeks to the general polls threatened that 'foreign observers will be returned to their countries in body bags'. He has severally been accused of being behind the massacre of hundreds of defenseless Christians in Southern Kaduna and army's mass killing of over 1000 Shiite Muslims and maiming of over 700 others in December 2015.

Gov el-Rufai has also been strongly fingered in the arrest and jungle trial of scores of rights activists and social bloggers as well as other social commentators who mostly belong to Christian Faith. The role of the Police DIGs, AIGs and CPs deployed in the above mentioned areas during the 2019 polls should also be ascertained by Your Excellency for purpose of including them in the list of Your Excellency's diplomatic sanctions including visa ban, if found culpable.

Also Your Excellency, the list should include, if not already included, the likes of former Govs Rochas Okoroacha and Orji Uzor Kalu who were reported to have been declared 'Senators-Elect' at gunpoint and under controversial circumstances respectively; Ahmed Bola Tinubu, who was strongly accused of sponsoring anti tribal violence against voting Igbo citizens resident in Lagos as well as the current Gov of Kano in Northwest Nigeria, Mr. Abdullahi Ganduja (for reportedly using military and mob violence to retain his seat at all costs). The list will also be incomplete, Your Excellency, if such visa ban and other diplomatic sanctions are not extended to Nigeria's INEC Chairman, Prof Mahmood Yakubu and other culpable top officials of the Commission especially those (NECs, RECs and ROs) deployed in the electoral arenas where high incidences of poll violence and manipulation were reported.

Other Gross Rights Abuses & Their Perpetrators In Nigeria: Under Lt Gen Tukur Yusuf Buratai as Nigeria's Chief of Army Staff, the following large scale or gross rights abuses and violations have been perpetrated with impunity since August 2015: killing of: *(a) more than 480 unarmed, defenseless and innocent citizens of the Igbo Ethnic Nationality and maiming of over 500 others in Southeast and South-south (August 2015-September 2017), (b) killing by the military of not less than 236 Christian IDPs and injuring of scores of others in Kale-Balge in Borno State (Jan 2017), (c) killing in conjunction with the Nigerian Air Force of 50 rural Christians and injuring of others in Numan, Adamawa State (December 2017), (d) mass suffocation and proxy custodial killing of 240 civilian detainees including 29 infants at Giwa Military Barracks in Borno State (AI Report 2016).*

Others are: *(e) massacre by the Nigerian Army of not less than 1,000 members of Shiite Muslims and injuring of over 700 others in Zaria, Kaduna State (December 2015), (f) bullet-killing by the Army of no fewer than 250 Shiite Muslims and injuring of others in their hundreds between Oct 2016 and July 2019 majorly in Kaduna and FCT, (g) rifle-killing by the military of 159 children and injuring of hundreds of others in Northeast Nigeria (UN Report 2017) and (h) killing by the Army of scores among over 40 unarmed citizens including voters and party agents in the Feb 23 Presidential and the March 2019 Governorship Polls particularly in Rivers and Bayelsa States (i.e. killing of Dr. Ferry Gberegbe and Miss Ibisaki Amachree in Rivers State).*

There was also a special report by Amnesty Int'l in May 2018 accusing the Nigerian Army of mass rape and starving of women rescued from Boko Haram terrorists and quartered in various IDP camps in Northeast Nigeria. These are just to cite a few of the Nigerian Army led military atrocities in Nigeria since August 2015. In all the named Army and other military atrocities, most, if not all direct and vicarious perpetrators are still on the prowl.

Impunity Reigns Supreme In The Nigerian Army & Government: Despite several international and local pressures including written representations made to the Nigerian political and military authorities since 2015 for the perpetrators to be fished out and punished accordingly, the authorities have refused to act; with the surviving victims and their families totally abandoned to their fate. The Nigerian authorities have continued to shield the perpetrators and hardly admit responsibilities or make amends.

Our Letters To 24 Democratic Foreign Missions In Nigeria Back In April 2019: It is important to inform Your Excellency that we had on 12th April 2019 sent letters similar to this to 24 foreign democratic missions in Nigeria including the Your Excellency's Ambassador to Nigeria. The letters, titled: **Request For Visa Ban & Other Appropriate Sanctions Against The Nigerian Military And 32 Top Political And Security Officials Over Gross Rights Abuses & Violations In Eastern Nigeria**; followed our special report: **Under Buhari & Osinbajo: Many Have Gone & Crippled For Life In Eastern Nigeria (Detailed Chronology of Nigerian Military Massacre Operations in Eastern Nigeria: August 2015-Sept. 2017)**. The report was released on 6th Feb 2019.

The Nigerian military led by the Army had massacred no fewer than 480 unarmed and defenseless citizens of the Igbo Ethnic Nationality and deadly injured over 500 others in the old Eastern Nigerian States of Anambra, Delta, Akwa Ibom, Rivers, Enugu and Abia. All the victims are members of Judeo-Christian faith in Nigeria and as at the time they were massacred or maimed (30th August 2015-14th Sept 2017), they had never used or advocated for violence such as resorting to armed resistance or taking up arms against Nigeria or any part thereof.

The release of the Special Report followed three years (Dec 2015-Dec 2018) of research and investigation by Emeka Umeagbalasi (a criminologist and graduate of security studies with master of science degree in peace studies & conflict resolution) and his research assistants into the Nigerian Military massacre operations in Eastern Nigeria under the guise of "internal security operations"; carried out in Southeast and some parts of South-south Regions of Nigeria. The areas under which the Nigerian Army led genocidal operations were carried out since August 2015 have no records of armed resistance or asymmetric military uprisings or widespread violence against the State of Nigeria or any part thereof.

The recipients of our special letters include: the United States Ambassador to Nigeria and Ambassadors of Israel, Denmark, Canada, Vatican City (Apostolic Nuncio), Germany, France, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Spain, South Korea, Brazil, Sweden, Austria, Netherlands, Switzerland, Belgium and Japan and as well as the High Commissioners of the United Kingdom, India and Australia and the Head of EU Mission to Nigeria and ECOWAS. The letters were successfully delivered to all the recipients including Your Excellency's Ambassador (Abuja) and Consular Gen in Nigeria (Lagos) on or before 12th April 2019.

Electronic Links To The Report: The link to the **Executive Summary** of the Special Report is provided here: <http://intersociety-ng.org/component/k2/item/406-intersociety-begins-the-release-of-its-special-report-on-military-massacre-operations-in-eastern-nigeria>. The Special Report is further attached with 62-page **pictorial evidence or victims' album**, containing names of the slain and injured victims; who were unarmed and defenseless. Here is the link: <http://intersociety-ng.org/component/k2/item/416-pictorial-album-of-victims-of-the-nigerian-military-massacre-operations-in-eastern-nigeria>.

The electronic link to the report, released on 6th Feb 2019 is here: <http://intersociety-ng.org/phocadownload/2019/under%20buhari%20and%20osinbajo%20many%20have%20gone%20and%20crippled%20for%20life%20in%20eastern%20nigeria.pdf>. **Amnesty Int'l** had on 24th October 2016, released a similar report. The AI's special report on killing of unarmed civilians in Eastern Nigeria is titled: **Nigeria: Bullets Were Raining Everywhere: Chilling Killing Of Over 150 Pro Biafra Activists** and its link is here: https://www.amnesty.org.ng/sites/default/files/Nigeria_bullets_were_raining_everywhere%20web.pdf

Int'l Reactions Generated By The Report: Findings generated by the Special Report also led to a number of international reactions including institution per **Ekwenche Igbo Research Institute (Chicago, Illinois)** on 30th June 2017 of a civil claimant suit in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. The Case is now at the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia with Case Number: **USCA: 18-7170**, filed on 12th Dec 2018 and referenced as: **John Doe, et al (Appellants) v Tukur Buratai, et al (Appellees)**. The matter has been fixed for main hearing on 23rd Sept 2019.

The civil claimant suit filed on behalf of **Ekwenche Research Institute and their Nigerian partners** by the Law Firm of Fein & DelValle PLLC, Washington, DC; was slammed on Nigeria's Army Chief, Lt Gen Tukur Yusuf Buratai and fifteen other top security and political officials including two local State Governors in the Southeast Nigeria. The suit seeks for restitution (i.e. claiming millions of dollars) and diplomatic justice and sanctions against the perpetrators and their patrons (i.e. foreign policy blackout against the political authorities in Nigeria). It was filed under **the US Torture Victims' Protection Act (TVPA) of 1992** on behalf of ten Nigerian families whose beloved members were killed or tortured on orders of Lt Gen Buratai and others.

Further, the conduct atrocities exposed in the Special Report also generated other international concerns including commentaries and condemnations from respected international personalities such as **John Campbell**, the former U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria during the George W. Bush, administration and a current senior fellow of **Africa Policy at the Council on Foreign Relations** and **Nina Shea**, a prominent international human rights lawyer and **director of the Center for Religious Freedom at the Washington-based think tank Hudson Institute**.

Their comments are contained in the recent **Christian Post** special edition on the massacre (**480, mostly Christians, killed in Nigerian 'military massacres' from 2015-2017: NGO report**). The special edition run on 5th Feb 2019 is here: <https://www.christianpost.com/news/480-mostly-Christians-killed-in-nigerian-military-massacres-from-2015-2017-ngo-report.html>

Also on 11th Feb 2019, the **Ekwenche Igbo Research Institute/Organization** in Chicago, Illinois, USA through the **Law Firm of Fein & DelValle PLLC, Washington DC**, successfully filed a criminal complaint against Mr. Muhammadu Buhari, President of Nigeria and Lt Gen Tukur Buratai, Chief of Army Staff and others at the Office of the Chief Prosecutor of ICC in Netherlands. The criminal complaint was indented and titled: **The Prosecutor V. Muhammadu Buhari, Tukur Buratai & Ors: For Genocide & Crimes Against Humanity in the Federal Republic of Nigeria Against the Igbo People & Biafrans**.

The criminal complaint was lodged pursuant to Article 15 of the ICC Statute of 1998, ratified by Nigeria in September 2001. The links to the ICC case published in same Feb 2019 by **the NigeriaLawyer and SatelliteTimes Online News** are provided here: <https://thenigerialawyer.com/ekwenche-research-institute-drags-buhari-buratai-others-to-icc-over-genocide-in-eastern-nigeria/> and <https://satellitetimesng.com/american-lawyers-drag-buhari-army-chief-to-international-criminal-court-icc-in-hague>.

Attached List Of 32 Perpetrators & Their Atrocity Crimes' Victims: Attached with this letter is a 12-page list containing the names of 32 serving and former top security and political officials fingered to be directly and vicariously responsible for the massacre as well as names of those massacred and maimed and locations and times of their massacre or maiming. Among the chief culprits in the list are two former Inspectors-Gen of Police, Solomon Arase and Ibrahim Kpotum Idris; former Nigerian Spymaster (former SSS Boss), Lawal Musa Daura; two sitting Gobs in the Southeast Nigeria; Nigeria's Chief of Army Staff, Lt Gen Tukur Yusuf Buratai and his commanders including two past GOCs, commanding 82 Division of the Nigerian Army in Enugu and current Nigerian Army Spokesman, Col Sagir Musa. Others are serving Police DIG Anthony Ogbizi and AIG Hosea Karma as well as retired Police DIG Habila Joshak, etc.

Use Of Terror Tag By Nigerian Government To Evade Justice: The Nigerian authorities apart from failing the litmus test of **the int'l law's principle of complimentarity and no impunity** or their inability and unwillingness to fish out and punish the perpetrators using the instrumentalities of the country's municipal laws have also come up with reckless use of 'terror tag' against unarmed civil entities that have their unarmed and defenseless members including women and children massacred or maimed in their thousands by the country's security forces led by the Nigerian Army.

The category of unarmed and defenseless citizens massacred or maimed in this respect are those involved in annual religious processions such as Nigeria's Shiite Muslims or those in peaceful assemblies including open street protests, ghost street protests (i.e. sit-at-homes), religious night vigil, sedentary rallies and prayers and picketing; such as citizens of old Eastern Nigeria campaigning for regional autonomy and wider political participation and end of political exclusion in the country's political space. There are also those who were going about their legitimate businesses as at the time of their massacre or maiming.

Specifically, the Nigerian Defense Headquarters had on 15th Sept 2017 after receiving the intelligence reports that its soldiers had massacred many (later found to be over 180) unarmed and defenseless citizens in Abia State in execution of its 'Operation Python Dance 11', caused steps to be taken apparently to retroactively justify the massacre and escape or evade justice by designating 'IPOB' as a 'terror organization' and on Sunday, 17th Sept 2017, President Muhammadu Buhari issued a proclamation tagging 'IPOB' a terrorist organization. This was followed by a retroactive ex parte court order issued by the now retired Justice Abdul Kafarati, then Acting Chief Judge of the Federal High Court in Nigeria. The court order ex parte was made on Wednesday, 20th Sept 2017.

Two years later, the Federal Government of Nigeria on Friday, 26th July 2019 approached an Abuja Division of the Federal High Court presided over by Justice Nkeonye Maha. The ex parte application was made via Suit No: **FHC/ABJ/CS/876/2019**, urging the Court to proscribe 'IMN' or 'Islamic Movement in Nigeria' and declare same as 'terrorist organization'. The Judge granted the application as unilaterally canvassed. Days later, the Nigerian Government pronounced Shiite Muslims as "terror group" and banned same; with consequent crackdown on their members including death in police custody of three of their bullet-injured members and invasion of hospitals treating the wounded and their abduction to unknown destinations, etc.

Dec 2015 Massacre Of Shiite Muslims By Nigerian Army: The Chief of Army Staff, Lt Gen Tukur Yusuf Buratai and his convoy had on 12th Dec 2015 deliberately rammed into an annual religious procession organized by Nigeria's Shiite Muslims; resulting in shooting to death in close range of hundreds of them. Undone, the Army Chief claimed assassination attempt on his life by the Shiites and ordered soldiers to massacre more leading to invasion of the house of the leader of the Shiite Muslims in the night of same day as well as the sect's headquarters on 13th, 14th and 15th Dec 2015; all leading to massacre of over 1000 Shiite members mostly defenseless women and children and injuring of 700 others. The Kaduna State Government later admitted killing by Nigerian Army of only "347".

The soldiers also destroyed and razed down the Shiite Muslims' headquarters at Hussainia (13th and 14th Dec 2015), stormed the house of their leader, Sheik Ibrahim Zaky el-Zaky at No 1 Wali Road, Gyellesu, Zaria in Kaduna State and shot severally at him and terminally injured him and his beloved wife (Zeenat). Not done, the Lt Gen Buratai led soldiers of the Nigerian Army also shot and killed instantly three sons of the Shiites' leader; namely: Hammad, then 17 years; Ali Haydar, then 15 years and Humaid, then 13 years as well as Hajia Fatima-the religious leader's elder sister, who was then 70 years old; after which they bundled the defenseless religious leader and his beloved wife into perpetual detention without trial per Nigeria's SSS since Dec 2015; a period of three years and seven months.

Rather than fishing out the perpetrators including Army Chief, Buratai and then GOC of 1st Division of the Nigerian Army, Kaduna, etc; the Nigerian Government atrociously turned around after over three years without trial and arraigned Sheik Ibrahim Zaky and his beloved wife for 'multiple murders' and related others; shielding and exonerating the real perpetrators till date. The Nigerian Army is also substantially responsible for death of no fewer than 250 Shiite members across Nigeria particularly Kaduna and the Federal Capital Territory between October 2016 and July 2019. The present Gov of Kaduna State, Mallam Nasiru el-Rufai is also strongly suspected of being involved in the 2015 Shiites and others in the State since 2015.

Army Aided Massacre Of Defenseless Christians In Northern Nigeria: Generally speaking and from various research accounts obtained by Intersociety since mid 2015, the Nigerian Army under the leadership of Lt Gen Tukur Yusuf Buratai had been strongly fingered at least since 2016 and still being fingered of working hand in gloves with Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen who kill average of 2000 Christians yearly since 2017 and have killed no fewer than 6,600-7000 since mid 2015; with thousands, if not tens of thousands terminally injured.

The killings include no fewer than 2,400 in 2018 and 900 since Jan 2019 or in the past seven and half months of 2019. A former Army Chief and Defense Minister, Retired Gen Theo Danjuma had specifically on 24th March 2018 accused the Nigerian Army of protecting the Fulani Jihadists and aiding their anti Christian violent campaigns in Nigeria. The not less than 6,600-7000 Christians killed by the Fulani Jihadists since mid 2015 did not include thousands massacred by Boko Haram and ISWAP terror groups during the same period.

Nearly 3000 churches and Christian schools, thousands of acres of land and hundreds, if not thousands of communities belonging to indigenous Nigerian Christians particularly in Northern Nigeria have also been lost to the Buhari Government backed Fulani Jihadists between mid 2015 and mid August 2019. The Government and security forces backed Fulani Jihadist violence has also displaced over 500,000 Christians across Northern Nigeria. The killings, widely believed to have been aided by the Army and other security forces in the country have majorly been carried out between mid 2015 and mid August 2019 in Benue, Plateau, Nasarawa, Taraba, Adamawa, Kogi, Southern Kaduna and Enugu States; where over 20m Northern Christians have been at terminal risk since 2009.

Recruitment Of Boko Haram Jihadists Into Nigerian Army & Ors: The Army is also strongly accused of spearheading a *Fulanization and Islamization* campaign by engaging in indiscriminate conscription into the Army and other branches of the Nigerian Armed Forces of hundreds of Boko Haram terrorists on annual basis. The Armed Forces particularly the Army are also grossly structured lopsidedly along northern Muslim lines especially in the areas of promotion and ranking, posting and assignment of duties as well as commanding positions. The Army also forcefully creates and protects Islamic Fulani settlements across the Middle Belt, Southeast, South-south and Southwest Nigeria; using ' Fulani cattle grazing routes' as a cover.

Nigerian Government Gravely Breaching Its Int'l Obligations: Nigeria, till date, is a State Party (signing and ratification) to the *UN Covenant on Civil & Political Rights and the UN Covenant on Economic, Social & Cultural Rights of 1976*; the *UN anti Genocide and Torture Conventions of 1948 and 1985*, the *UN Convention for Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance of 2009*, the *UN Women & Child Rights Conventions of 1984 and 1990*, the *UN Convention against All Forms of Racial Discrimination of 1969*, the *UN Statute on Refuge of 1951*, the *Rome Statute of the Int'l Criminal Court of 1998* and the *UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials of 1979*, the *UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force & Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials of 1990*, the *UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) of 1948* and the *African Charter on Human & Peoples Rights of 1981 (ratified and domesticated by the country in 1983)*.

The rest are: the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People of 2007* and the *Geneva Conventions or Laws of War of 1949* (enacted to regulate inter State and intra State conflicts and treatment of non combatants including unarmed civilians, refugees and IDPs affected by either of the conflicts). Nigeria is not only a State Party to all the above but also morally and legally bound by them till date. Yet, these sacred international obligations are being observed in grave breach by the Nigerian Government, its security and political actors.

The UN's new concept of **sovereignty as a responsibility or citizens' sovereignty** and **maintenance of international peace and security** as the core foundation of the Purposes of the 193-member Organization; is also inviolably binding on Nigeria as a key Member-State. The country is further bound by **the Customary International Law** under UN System particularly those that are inviolable under their doctrine of "substantial uniformity by a substantial number of States" or "Opinio Juris."

The UN's principle of *Opinio Juris* binding on its 193-Member States including Nigeria literally means a general belief binding on all Member-States that a non-treaty is legally binding on States. This is in addition to another essential principle of UN called "Jus Cogens" (i.e., absolute rules of general international law binding on UN Member-States for which no derogation is permitted). Instances of the latter include rules against use of crude or deadly force on vulnerable and unarmed populations; perpetration of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity; massacre of unarmed and defenseless citizens in small or large numbers and in non-war situations, slavery, mass rape, torture, depopulation or forced migration, economic pillage, religious intolerance and violence etc.

Nigerian Government Grossly Disrespects The Country's Constitution: The Buhari-Osinbajo Government of Nigeria also disrespects the country's Constitution (1999 Constitution) with reckless abandon. *Collective rights* are specifically provided in Sections 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 of the Constitution under *Fundamental Objectives & Directive Principles of State Policy* in the Chapter 11 while civil liberties including rights to wider political participation, religious freedom, personal life, human dignity and liberty; fair hearing including presumption of innocence until judicially convicted as well as rights to peaceful assembly and association, freedom from discrimination and freedom of movement and judicial remedies are provided in Sections 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41 and 46 of the same Constitution under its Chapter 1V. Yet the authorities have continuously observed them in gross breach with impunity.

Findings: From the above highlighted, Your Excellency, a strong and irrefutable case of 'industrial scale' rights abuses and anti democratic activities against the named has been established; making them *interlopers* on American soil, *persona non gratae* among the comity of civilized nations and fugitives or wanted persons in the circles of int'l criminal, rights and humanitarian laws as well as outcastes among global democracies which Your Excellency's country is the *primus inter pares* or *global democracy's number one police*.

Our Prayers & Demands:

- *Your Excellency is prayed and called upon to take diplomatic and other international justice notice of the named perpetrators and their atrocity crimes for purpose of declaring them "persona non gratae" including isolating and sanctioning them on American soil and possibly arresting and prosecuting them now or when appropriate within international borders including any time they step their toes on USA soil.*
- *The named perpetrators both retired and serving members of the Nigerian security establishments and public office holders shall also be slammed with visa ban and other appropriate international sanctions including being blacklisted and made ineligible in all regional and international military, policing and other security or diplomatic engagements such as corporate and individual or intergovernmental consultancies, contracts, partnerships, trainings, exchange visits etc.*
- *Governmentally, such sanctions shall be invoked and extended bilaterally or multilaterally including placing embargoes on arms trade (i.e. via Leahy Law of USA 1966 as amended) and slamming sanctions on economic trades as well as drastic cuts in dev assistance; among other international deterrent measures.*
- *Other diplomatic sanctions under recommendation against the perpetrators include denial and withdrawal of visas from their families, freezing of the perpetrators' accounts and seizure or confiscation of their assets abroad particularly in the USA and exposing their international cash deposits and properties illicitly stashed abroad.*

Also attached in this letter, Your Excellency, is another important report showing how members of the Igbo Ethnic Nationality, mostly of Judeo-Christian Faith, were denied in their tens of millions right to wider political participation in Nigeria particularly in the recently held 2019 General Elections in Nigeria. It is titled: How Igbos Were Denied Right Of Voting & Stopped From Voting In The 2019 General Elections In Nigeria; and dated 27th July 2019.

Yours In The Service To Humanity

For: Int'l Society for Civil Liberties & Rule of Law (Nigeria)

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