

## **139 Communities, Villages & Areas In Igbo Land Presently In Violent Control Of Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen**

### **...Intersociety**

#### **...Raises Alarm Over Elimination Of Senior Igbo Police Officers From The Ranks Of CPs, AIGs and DIGs**

**Onitsha, Eastern Nigeria, Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> August 2019:** The Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen, backed by the present Government of Muhammadu Buhari and Yemi Osinbajo are presently in violent control of 139 Communities, Villages and Areas in Igbo Land. The violent occupation, also backed by the country's security forces, is widely and strongly believed to have religious undertones or done for purposes of propagation and imposition of radical Islamism in the Judeo-Christian dominated Southern Nigeria and the Middle Belt including seven Igbo speaking States of Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu, Imo, Delta and Rivers State as well as Igbo areas of Benue and Kogi States and their Christian and animist neighbors.

The present Government of Nigeria is also bent on erasing the Igbo Nation particularly the Southeast Region from the top command structure of the Nigeria Police Force and other branches of the Nigerian Armed Forces. It must be alerted that no senior police officer from the Southeast is among members of the Nigeria Police Management Team, made up of serving IGP, seven DIGs and 20-22 AIGs including the Force Secretary. Presently, no serving senior police officer from the Southeast is AIG and DIG and out of 95 CPs, only three or not more than five are from the Igbo Southeast.

The above was the position of **Int'l Society for Civil Liberties & Rule of Law, Intersociety**, as contained in a statement issued today, 24<sup>th</sup> August 2019 and signed by Lawyers Obianuju Joy Igboeli, Head of Civil Liberties & Rule of Law, Evangeline Chidinma Udegbonam, Head of Campaign & Publicity Dept and Emeka Umeagbalasi, a Criminologist & Graduate of Security Studies and Board Chair of **Intersociety**. **Intersociety** is led by professionals and grassroots activists including criminologists, security studies experts, lawyers, journalists and peace and conflict resolution experts, etc.

The Federal Government and its security forces backed violent occupation is also likely to be (or not) of the 'Nigerian Forest Mapping' assignment, reportedly ordered by the Buratai led authorities of the Nigerian Army in late 2015; said to have been carried out for purpose of tackling insurgency and other 'internal insecurity challenges in Nigeria'. The violent presence of the Jihadists in Igbo Land is also independently linked to *insider gubernatorial conspiracy*. In other words, suspicions are widely and independently strong and viral that the violent presence of the Jihadists and patterns and trends of their criminalities and crimes in Igbo Land are conspiratorially made possible by *gubernatorial second term or office succession bids* of the Southeast Gobs starting with Anambra State in 2017. Though gubernatorial denials have been made, but such denials have not flown convincingly among the mainstream homeland, outpost, traveler and Diaspora Igbo People and their neighbors.

**Facts Of The Matter:** The violent takeover of 139 Igbo Communities, Villages and Areas was according to the account of the monthly *Eastern Outlook*, vol.003, 13<sup>th</sup> August-14<sup>th</sup> Sept 2019 (p.15): ***the (Jihadist) Fulani Herdsmen have taken over 139 Communities and Villages in Igbo Land.*** The story was also authenticated by the publisher of the Newspaper, Mr. Abia Onyike; a seasoned rights activist, former Chair of CLO Southeast Zone and onetime Commissioner for Information in Ebonyi State, who was met by Mr. Emeka Umeagbalasi in Owerri at the venue of the *2019 Igbo Summit on Security, Peace & Dev in Igbo Land & her neighbors*, where Mr. Umeagbalasi was the key speaker.

Mr. Umeagbalasi had at the summit spoken on: ***Highlighting the Challenges of State and non State actor created Insecurity in Igbo Land & her Neighbors.*** The special summit, organized by the Alaigbo Dev Foundation, the World Igbo Congress, the Association of Southeast Town Unions and the Christian Association of Nigeria, Southeast, etc, took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2019. The 20-page special security lecture will be made public in coming days. Mr. Abia Onyike had further disclosed that Enugu State has the highest Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen presence with 56 spots, followed by Anambra with 23, Imo 17, Ebonyi 12 and Abia seven. In Igbo areas of Delta and Rivers States, there are 15 spots in Delta and nine in Rivers.

**Names Of The 139 Igbo Communities, Villages & Areas & Their Locations By State:** Anambra: Nteje, Ogbunka, Ufuma, Ezira, Umunze, Umuchukwu, Akpu, Ndikeilionwu, Ogboji, Ndiowu, Anam, Achala, Ebenebe, Ogbunike, Osina, Okija, Ihiala, Ukpo, Dunukofia, Agulu, Neni, Ogbu, Awkuzu, and 3-3 Area of Nsugbe. Abia: Lokpanta, Leeru, Nkpa, Ohafia, Bende, Ubakala and Owerre-Nta. Ebonyi: Emoha, Nkalagu, Afikpo, Izzi, Ezza, Ezzaegu, Ezamgbo, Ukpo, Ekeimoha, Akpoha, Abomege and Onicha. Enugu: Ibite Ogbaku, Akpugo, Achi, Amansii, Nachi, Ukpabi-Nimbo, Ukpata, Akegbe-Ugwu, Ugwuoba, Eka Aku, Igbo-Etiti, Amaganze, Amaechi Idodo, Ugwu-Onyeama, Egede.

Other Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen spots in Enugu are: Adada, Nkpologwu, Afa, Opanda, Uzo Uwani, Uvuru, Adani, Ugwu Aboh, Waziri Estate-Nsukka, Enugu-Ezike, Neke-Uno, Akpogasi, Ugwuogo, Ekpebe, Madonna University Layout, Ihuokpa-3-Corner, Akwuke, Industrial Layout-Emene, Unity Layout, Ibagwa-Nike City Layout-Amokwe, Heritage Layout-Oyoho-Nike, Odo Rice-Emene, New Zion State Layout-Ugwu Onyeama, Phase 11, Independence Layout, 4-Corner, Redemption Layout, Amokpo, Ugbaka-Nkanu, Aninri and Awgu.

**Others Are:** Delta (Anioma Land): Agbor, Okpanam, Iselleukwu, Oshimmili, Onicha-Ugbo, Ndokwa, Umunede, Ogwasiukwu, Ibusa (Igbo-Uzor), Kwale, Obiaruku, Igbanke (Igbo-Akiri), Asaba (Ahaba) and Ella. And Rivers: Onuimo, Ugurunta, Omoku, Ahuada, Omuha, Emeoha, Okehi, Isiokpo, Oleh and Umuechem.

**No Serving Igbo DIG & AIGs In The Nigeria Police Force:** Presently, there are no serving Igbo senior police officers in the top ranks of DIG and AIG in Nigeria. The Southeast is presently not a member of the Nigeria Police Management Team (PMT), composed of serving IGP, seven DIGs and AIGs numbering not less than 20. By Section 14 (3) of the 1999 Constitution and the equity principles of regional representation and national integration, the Police Service Commission is tasked to ensure non exclusion of any geopolitical zone in the ranking and promotion of senior police officers and assignment of duties to them. The senior police officers affected are those classified and captured in *'the Police Officers Senior Staff List: IGP-CSP'*, updated monthly.

Contrarily, as it stands presently, the authorities of PSC and the NPF are observing the referenced constitutional provision and principles in gross breach; by deliberately and hatefully excluding, if not erasing names of senior Igbo police officers from such sensitive positions. For instance, it is factually authoritative that DIG Godwin C. Nwobodo from Aninri, Enugu State; with police appointment number (AP 24188) has retired since 12<sup>th</sup> August 2019 without replacement. Until his retirement, he was a member of the Nigeria Police Management Team, representing Southeast Zone and DIG in charge of Department of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) at Force Headquarters. Former CP, but now retired AIG Chris Okey Ezike (AP 24182) from Ogboji, Anambra State was the only serving Igbo AIG as at March 2019, out of 20 serving AIGs then. He later retired in the same March without replacement on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019. That is also to further say that no senior police officer from the Southeast or Igbo Land is among the heads of 12 Police Zonal Commands in Nigeria, headed by AIGs.

In all these, it is not as if no promotion exercise had taken place per PSC and NPF since then. As a matter of fact, there was a promotion exercise held on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 by the authorities of the Police Service Commission at its 5<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting that took place on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019. During the promotion exercise involving promotion of '8,916 senior police officers to their next substantive ranks to fill existing vacancies', no senior Igbo police officer was among those promoted to the rank of AIG. This is despite the fact that three CPs (Jona Jackson Mava, Olusola Babajide David and Titus Sumba Larmode) were elevated to AIG while two (Rudolf Echebi Obe) and Danladi B. Lalas) got confirmed as substantive CPs.

**Only Six Serving Igbo CPs & One In Acting Capacity In NPF Out Of 95 CPs:** Apart from targeting to promote Igbo senior police officers to their next substantive ranks only at the twilight of their statutory retirements, there are presently only six serving Igbo Commissioners of Police and one acting CP in Nigeria, out of 95 serving CPs. CP Damian Agba Chukwu (AP24247) from Owerre in Imo State, has since retired without replacement on 31<sup>st</sup> April 2019; likewise CP Onyegoro Ebere Chijioke (AP25157) from Owerre, Imo State who retired without replacement since 25<sup>th</sup> May 2019. Another Igbo CP, Damian Nkem (AP21914) from Owerre, Imo State also retired without replacement since 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019.

As it stands now, there are only six serving substantive Igbo Commissioners of Police and one acting CP in Nigeria. Among them are CP Celestine Okoye (AP25102) from Awka-Anambra State, retires on 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2020, CP Joseph O. Egbunike (AP30427) from Onitsha-Anambra State, retires on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022, CP John Ogbonnaya Amadi (AP36551) from Afikpo North in Ebonyi State, retire on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023, CP Alex C. Opara (AP24154) from Owerre North in Imo State, retires on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2019, CP Uche J. Anozie (AP13780) from Oguta-Imo State, retires on 19<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020 and CP Cyril I. Okoro (AP25065) from Ideato-Imo State, retires on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2021. The only Igbo woman acting CP is Acting CP Josephine Nneka Anyasinti (AP36535) from Njikoka-Anambra State, retires on 27<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022. This number of CPs allotted to the Southeast is totally rejected. The Region is short-changed by at least eight CPs, as it is entitled to not less than 15. This is more so when CP Alex C. Opara is retiring in four months time or on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2019.

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