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Ref: InterSoc/002/02/016/Security/Chiefs/ABJ/NG

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Honourable Minister of Interior, Federal Ministry of Interior

Old Secretariat, Area 1, Garki, FCT, Abuja, Nigeria

(b)Major General Abayomi Gabriel Olonisakin

Chief of Defense Staff, the Defense Headquarters

FCT, Abuja, Nigeria

Sirs,

Ceaseless Killing Of Unarmed Citizens In Nigeria: Why Security Chiefs Must Desist From Provoking More Insurgencies Capable Of Plunging Nigeria Into Syrian Styled Violence

(Onitsha Nigeria, 16th February 2016)-The leadership of **International Society for Civil Liberties & the Rule of Law (Intersociety)** writes your two important public offices concerning the above named subject. This letter is also adopted and supported by other nine group-members of the **Southeast Based Coalition of Human Rights Organizations (SBCHROs)**; comprising: **Anambra State Branch of the Civil Liberties Organization (CLO), Center for Human Rights & Peace Advocacy (CHSPA), Human Rights Club (a project of LRRDC)(HRC), Forum for Justice, Equity & Defense of Human Rights (FJEDHR), Society Advocacy Watch Project (SPAW), Anambra**

Human Rights Forum (AHRF), Southeast Good Governance Forum (SGGF), International Solidarity for Peace & Human Rights Initiative (ITERSOLIDARITY) and Igbo Ekunie Initiative (pan Igbo rights advocacy group).

Government Announcement Of Violent Crackdown On Pro-Biafran

Agitators: We wish to recall, Sirs that the Nigerian Army had on November 16, 2015 announced a violent crackdown on those who are peacefully and non-violently agitating for their *constitutional and treaty rights* to self-determination, development, existence, peaceful assembly, association, personal liberty, movement, life, dignity of human person, expression and fair hearing. These rights are fully guaranteed by the 1999 Constitution in its Chapter Four (Fundamental Human Rights) as well as by various international human rights treaties particularly the African Charter on Human & Peoples Rights of 1981, ratified and domesticated by Nigeria in 1983 and the International Covenant on Civil & Political Rights of 1976, ratified by Nigeria in 1993. These rights are constitutionally and conventionally exercisable by all citizens provided they are exercised peacefully and non-violently. They are also mandatorily protected and safeguarded by the State, African Union and the United Nations.

The leading group in this context is the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and millions of its supporters in Nigeria and overseas. The Army's announcement, which was restated by your office (CDS) on behalf of the Nigerian Military, is contained in the following link: <http://www.informationng.com/2015/11/pro-biafra-protests-army-warns-ipob-massob-others-against-secession.html>. On 1st December 2015.

As if that was not enough, Sirs, the Inspector General of Police, IGP Solomon Arase, on 2nd December 2015 issued *a stern warning* and directed his subordinate officers in the Southeast and the South-south zones to apply **maximum (deadly violence) force** against the pro-Biafran self-determination agitators particularly the IPOB and its teaming supporters. The said order of 2nd December 2015 is contained in the following link: <http://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/194275-nigeria-police-chief-orders-anti-riot-force-to-maximally-restrain-pro-biafra-protesters>. The IGP had earlier threatened to use deadly violence to crack down the peaceful and non-violent protests under reference. The threat was issued during his live program on Channels Television in Lagos State 8th of November 2015.

Below is the link to the threat under reference:
<http://www.nairaland.com/2722903/arase-issues-final-warning-pro-biafra>.

Reasons For Pro-Biafran Peaceful Protests: It is further recalled, Sirs, that tens of thousands of members of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and millions of their supporters had since July 2015 involved in peaceful and non-violent street protests in 10 States of the Southeast and the South-south zones except Edo State. They also protested in Lagos, Abuja and dozens of foreign countries in Europe, North America and Asia. The protests peaked between October and December 2015 following the arrest and long and unconstitutional detention without fair charge and trial of the leader of IPOB, Prince Nnamdi Kanu. Citizen Nnamdi Kanu was arrested on 14th October 2015 and had never been released on bail till date despite several court orders either ordering for his conditional release or unconditional release. The causes of these peaceful and non-violent protests, Sirs, are fundamentally founded on *escalation and*

entrenchment of individual (personal insecurity) and group (structural insecurity) violence against the Igbo Ethnic Nationality in Nigeria.

In other words, Sirs, their peaceful and non-violent protests were geared towards drawing the attentions of the Nigerian authorities and members of the international community over escalated and unaddressed threats to personal security and safety and other unsafe conditions (personal violence) as well as gross geopolitical imbalances and lopsidedness against the Igbo Ethnic Nationality particularly the Southeast Zone in matters of federal distribution of material and human resources (collective violence). Totality of the foregoing is seen by them as constituting a dangerous threat to *their existence, development and* enjoyment of *inalienable and statute rights* provided by the Constitution and the international rights conventions.

Deprivation of these inalienable rights has made members of the Igbo Ethnic Nationality and other Southern Ethnic Nationalities *endangered species* in Nigeria. *The peaceful and non-violent protests gained currency following the Buhari administration's soft spot for politics of exclusion and socio-ethnic divisiveness.* The grand purpose of these peaceful and non-violent protests under reference is for the Nigerian authorities to address the social anomalies complained of, non-violently, competently and satisfactorily.

Consequences Of Government Violent Crackdown: From our recent extensive investigations, Sirs, at least 80 innocent Nigerian citizens and mostly, members of the Igbo Ethnic Nationality in Nigeria who are sympathetic to pro-Biafran self-determination agitation, have been killed by Nigerian security forces since 30th August 2015. The victims of the referenced butcheries have never used or

advocated violence. The leading killer-security force is the Nigerian Army, followed by the Nigeria Police Force and the Nigerian Navy.

Over 170 other innocent and unarmed citizens have also been shot and critically injured while about 400 others or more have been arrested, charged or detained without trial. Hundreds of them are currently facing charges contrary to *democratic free speech* in various magistrate courts in Southern Nigeria. Scores are also being detained without trial amidst torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatments or punishment in the hands of the personnel of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF). There are also reported cases of disappearances, abductions and pretrial killing of members of IPOB particularly in Southern Nigeria. In the context of *security forces atrocity index*, the Nigerian Army accounts for 60% of the atrocities while the Nigeria Police is responsible for 30%; leaving the remaining 10% to other security forces including the Nigerian Navy. The Nigeria Police Force is solely responsible for indiscriminate arrests and disappearances of citizens, whom it labels “IPOB/MASSOB” members.

Detailed Statistics: For the avoidance of doubt, Sirs, among the 80 murdered citizens are 4 killed in Awka and Onitsha on 30th August 2015; 13 killed in Onitsha on 2nd December 2015; 12 killed in Onitsha on 17th December 2015 (eight were killed on the spot and four others died in hospital following gunshot wounds); eight killed in Aba on 18th January 2016; six killed in Aba on 29th January 2016 and 22 killed in Aba on 9th February 2016. There were other killings that went unreported or unaccounted for till date.

We further inform, Sirs, that 60% of the murdered citizens were shot and killed on the spot by soldiers. Their corpses were picked up by the same soldiers, taken to secret destinations and buried or dumped in secret graves or borrow

pits. In most cases, if not in all cases, Sirs, the said murdered citizens have their hands tied behind their backs, poured raw acid or other defacing and decimating chemical substances and laid face down to avoid easy identification and to erase traces. Those critically shot and injured by soldiers who are at the point of death are routinely shot dead and buried or dumped in a like manner.

Dead Victims: Among the four citizens killed in Onitsha and Awka on 30th August 2015 are Ebuka Nnolum of Enuguabo-Ufuma in Anambra State and Obasi Maduka of Oshiri in Ebonyi State. Among 13 citizens killed in Onitsha on 2nd December 2015 are: Miss Anthonia Nkiruka Ikeanyionwu (Anambra State), Kenneth Ogadinma (Abia State), Chima Onoh (Enugu State), Angus Chikwado (Anambra State) and Miss Felicia Egwuatu (Anambra State). The remaining eight citizens shot and killed by soldiers of the Onitsha Military Cantonment commanded by Col Isa Abdullahi were taken away and secretly buried or dumped in undisclosed locations till date.

Also, out of 12 citizens killed in Onitsha on 17th December 2015, only four who died in the hospital were identified. One of them is Citizen Okwu Friday. The identities of three others cannot be disclosed here as pleaded by their families. The corpses of the remaining eight citizens shot and killed on the 17th of December 2015 were taken away by soldiers of the Onitsha Military Cantonment. Among the 22 murdered citizens in the Aba Prayer/Meeting session of IPOB on 9th of February 2016 are: Uche Friday (30yrs), from Asa in Abia State; Emeka Ekpemandu (35yrs), from Owerre Nkwoji in Imo State; Chiavoghi Chibuikem (Obingwa in Abia State); Nzubechi Onwumere (Orlu in Imo State); Peter Chinemerem Ukasoanya (27yrs), from Isialangwa North in Abia State, Chigozie Cyril Nwoye (23yrs), from Umuna in Ezeagu, Enugu

State; Chukwudi Onyekwere (26yrs), from Aboh Mbaise in Imo State; and Chibuzor Maduagwu (28yrs), from Amauzari in Mbano, Imo State.

The remaining 12 dead bodies of murdered IPOB members were taken away by soldiers of 144 Battalion of the Nigerian Army, located at Asa in Ukwa West LGA of Abia. The 144 Battalion is commanded by Lt Col Kasim Umar Sidi. The Abia State Police Command had earlier admitted publicly of shooting and killing two IPOB members (“for disturbing students of the National High School in Aba”). The Command is presently and officially in possession of the two dead IPOB members it shot and killed.

Shot & Critically Injured Victims: Out of the 170 citizens that were shot and critically injured by Nigerian security forces particularly the Army, Police and Navy, most of them are found in Delta, Rivers, Anambra, Abia and Enugu States and the shootings occurred between August 30th, 2015 and 9th of February 2016. Of these, over 40 citizens were critically shot and injured in Anambra (30th August, 2nd and 17th December 2015); 80 in Abia State (18th of January 2016, 29th of January 2016 and 9th of February 2016), 21 in Rivers State (30th August 2015); 10 in Delta State (30th August 2015) and 6 in Enugu State. These exclude scores of others critically shot and injured in related non-violent protests in those States as well as Bayelsa State that went unreported or unaccounted for.

Among those shot and critically injured in Rivers by Nigerian Army and the Police are Citizens Sunday Udegbe, Nwabunne Udo, Agwasi Anthony, Meshach Emmanuel, Chinwendu Ogbonna, Amanda Onyekachi, Emmanuel Arinze, Okwudiri Ojah, Chibuike David, Uzochi Ugwojialili, Chukwuma Igwe, Kingsley Okere, Chinedu Solomon Iwu, Okon Emmanuel Udo, Kelechi

Uwaeze, Dominic Uwalaka, Solomon Chikwe, Ikenna Ezekwem, Thomas Ubani, Amarachi Onyemachi and Chukwudi Ofoegbuliwe.

In Enugu State, the following were shot and critically injured: Mr. Godswill Ojikeme, Mrs. Chinyere Godswill Ojikeme, Ogbodo Monday, Jonah Kelechi, Onuigbo Paul and Obiorah Innocent. Those deadly shot and wounded in Delta State are: Chinedu Abel, Onovo Michael, Kingsley Anuife, Amechi Ojieh, Ogbonna Kanayo, David Ogbu, Charles Chukwuka, Elochukwu Uzor, Chinedu Chukwuma and Onyekanna Ifechukwudebelu. Those shot and critically injured on 30th August 2015 in Anambra State are: Sampson Kalu, Chidiebere Nnaji, Onyekwelu Ovute, Felix Ndianaefo, Ikechukwu Okafor, Chimaobi Okafor, Christopher Oforah, Sunday Nwazugbo, Stanley Eze, Mrs. Eucharika and Mrs. Patricia.

Among those shot and critically injured by soldiers, Police and Navy in Onitsha on 2nd of December 2015 are: Citizens Jonah Kelechi, Nwode Friday, Ogoto Monday, Nwankwo Ejike, Onuigbo Paul, Mbonu Izunna and Obiora Innocent. Among those shot and critically injured by security forces in Onitsha on 17th of December 2015 peaceful and non-violent protest are: Amadi Chinonso, Chukwudi Dabelechi, Alo Amechi, Nwaele Chigozie, Okonkwo Felix, Eneje Emeka, Uchechukwu Kingsley, Igwebuikwe Chinonso, Onyemaechi Ikeagu, Nwaoba Emeka, Nwajioha Chinonso, Nwaele Chinonso, Ijeoma Chukwu, Francis Ikechukwu, Ejike Jideoffor, Makuochukwu Ozobi and Okechukwu Okonkwo.

Among innocent and unarmed citizens shot and critically injured in Aba on 9th of February by security forces are: Mrs. Charity Ahuruonye (40yrs), from Ugwunabo in Abia State; Chibuzor Akabueze (29yrs), from Mbano in Imo

State, Chukwuemeka Iwuoha (Nwangele in Imo State), Chibuzor Chukwu (Oshiri in Ebonyi State), Innocent Chinedu Okoro (52yrs), from Akuma Ihechiowa in Abia State, Obinna Emmanuel Alaribe (26yrs), from Umuobasi in Abia State, Uchenna Ihuoma (28yrs), from Njaba in Imo State, Ekene Uzor (29yrs), from Ojoto in Anambra State, Sunday Kalu (63yrs), from Ihechiowa in Abia State; Mrs. Nnenna Okebe (55yrs), from Abiriba in Abia State; Mrs. Comfort Kingsley (32yrs); Mrs. Ngozi Paul (34yrs), from Amumara Mbaise in Imo State; and Ifiok Alexandra Ibanga (Ubon Akwa-Obot Akara in Akwa Ibom State).

It is also important to inform you, Sirs, that some of these gunshot victims mentioned above in Delta, Anambra, Rivers, Enugu and Abia have died following the gravity of their gunshot injuries and lack of funds needed for their proper medical treatments. Most, if not all of them were shot at close range. Some have been crippled and can never walk again while others have their limbs or arms amputated; yet others have their body parts badly lacerated. Among these innocent victims are fathers, breadwinners, tax payers, mothers, pregnant women, the aged, sons and daughters.

How Soldiers & Police Massacred 22 Citizens In Aba & Dumped 11 Bodies In

Borrow Pit: It is our information, Sirs, that the combined team of soldiers of the 144 Battalion located in Asa, Ukwa Ngwa West LGA of Abia State under the command of Lt Col Kasim Umar Sidi and the personnel of the Nigeria Police Force, Abia State Command, headed by CP Habila Hosea (08037025670); aided by Aba Area Commander, ACP Peter Nwagbara (08184087787) and joined by some personnel of the Nigerian Navy Command (Finance & Logistics Command), Owerre-Nta in Abia State had on 9th of February 2016, shot and

killed 22 unarmed, innocent and non-violent members of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) at the National High School along Port Harcourt Road in Aba, Abia State. The security forces had stormed the School in over ten hilux vans at about 12: noon of the said date.

Over 30 other members of the IPOB were also shot and critically injured at the scene. Out of the 22 murdered citizens, eight were identified after the shooting and killing spree by other members of the IPOB and sympathizers; some of them died on their way to hospital following excessive bleeding and excruciating pains. Two of the 22 murdered IPOB members were taken away by the Abia State Police Command and the remaining 12 were packed in two military trucks and taken away by soldiers. Among them were four critically injured citizens in terminal conditions.

The IPOB members numbering hundreds had converged peacefully and non-violently at the National High School for their prayers and meeting. About 30 minutes into their prayer procession in the School's premises, soldiers of the 144 Battalion, numbering over fifteen; joined by Police and Navy personnel surrounded and barricaded the IPOB members and cordoned off the area. Minutes after, the soldiers opened fire at the IPOB members while Police and Navy personnel joined them by shooting harmful chemical substances at them. Coordinators of the IPOB were before the shooting, fished out and taken away; likewise some married women. Among those earlier arrested and taken away are Abia State IPOB Coordinator, Ikechukwu Ugwuoha, Imo State Coordinator, Amos Ezekiel, Abia State Welfare Officer of IPOB, Okechukwu Nnebedum Nkume, Abia State Zonal Coordinator, Donatus Okeke and one of the principal officers of the group in Rivers State, Joseph Okolie.

Dumping Of 11 Murdered Citizens In Borrow Pit: On Saturday, 13th of February 2016, some scavengers reported to one of the Aba units coordinators of IPOB that they saw some dead bodies in a borrow pit located along Aba Port Harcourt Road. The Borrow Pit was recently converted to a refuse dump by the Government of Abia State. On receiving the report on Saturday morning, the IPOB members moved to the area where they saw 11 dead bodies battered and shrank with decimating chemical substances. The 11 murdered citizens must have included those taken away alive by soldiers who were battered with gunshots. They were laid face down with their eyes tied and covered.

They also have their hands tied behind their backs and their bodies lacerated with gunshot holes. The chemical substances poured on them shrank them and made them look taller than their normal heights; all for the purposes of erasing traces and defying easy facial and bodily identifications. But clothes worn by some of them are still new and easily identifiable. Some IPOB members who went to the site quickly recognized some of them as part of those that attended the prayer and meeting session of 9th of February 2016 before their gruesome massacre by soldiers of the 144 Battalion, Asa in Ukwa West LGA of Abia State; commanded by Lt Col Kasim Umar Sidi.

The leadership of this organization also went to the site and saw the gruesomely murdered corpses. The 144 Battalion's military barracks is about 10 kilometers away from the Borrow Pit. The murdered citizens must have been dumped in the Pit by the soldiers in the hours of the blue law or after midnight of 9th of February 2016. They were also dumped at a distance away from the refuse site and were carefully positioned and dumped. In the 18th and 29th of January 2015 IPOB peaceful protests in Aba, soldiers also shot dead scores of protesters and

took their corpses away. During the similar protests in Onitsha on 2nd and 17th of December 2015, soldiers of the Onitsha Military Cantonment, headed by Col Isa Abdullahi shot, killed and took away corpses of scores of peaceful protesters without traces of where they were buried or dumped till date. The video clips and pictures of the massacre at the National High School in Aba and the dumping of 11 murdered bodies are attached below for full details, references and investigation.

Condemnation: The worst crime against humanity by the State is killing and maiming of its citizens in peacetime. In wartime, killing of civilians not taking part in the war by State and non-State actors; unambiguously constitutes war crimes and it is a fundamental breach of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, particularly their Protocol 11 (protection of civilians and other non-combatants in internal conflicts); how much more killing and maiming of innocent, non-violent and unarmed citizens in peacetime. It saddens our heart that Nigeria, which claims to be a respected member of the international community including AU and UN, can mindlessly and rapaciously turn its instrument of State violence against its unarmed, non-violent and peaceful citizens. Our extensive investigations also showed that the killing and maiming of IPOB members under reference is inescapably *a hate killing and presidentially condoned.*

It is also an *ethnic cleansing*. Our recent field observations, observed at various military checkpoints in Aba and Onitsha clearly indicated the flooding of the Southeast Zone with carefully selected and posted soldiers mostly dominated by Muslim northerners as young as 22-25 years. These elements are incurably *ethnic cleansers and hate killers*, once opportunities occur. They are also under

the commands of Muslim officers from core north with possible matching orders from above to *shoot, maim and kill at sight* members of Igbo Ethnic Nationality. For instance, the Onitsha Field Artillery Cantonment is headed by Col Isa Abdullahi; a Muslim officer from core north; likewise the 144 Battalion in Abia State, headed by Lt Col Kasim Umar Sidi; another killer northern officer. The 82nd Division of the same Nigerian Army that coordinates the entire army formations in the Southeast Zone is also headed by Brigadier Gen Ibrahim Attahiru; a Muslim officer from the core north.

Further condemned is the unconstitutional roles of the Army in intervening in peaceful and non-violent protests under reference. Taking vengeance of its casualties in the Boko Haram insurgency on innocent and unarmed citizens is recipe for anarchy and breeding of another insurgency in Nigeria. We are aware that Government Ekpemupolo (Tompolo); a Niger Delta oil militant, has continued to defy several court orders and court orders given to security forces in Nigeria to bring him to court have not been executed till date; thereby suggesting that once *armed in Nigeria, a citizen is feared and respected by security forces*. In other words, Nigerian security forces under your administrative midwifery appear to be encouraging citizens to take up arms and become lawless while discouraging others from being law abiding and ventilating their social angers within the ambit of the law.

If Nigerian security forces under your administrative midwifery can be so heartless to direct State violence against innocent and unarmed citizens exercising their democratic free speeches, then there is unquenchable danger ahead. Saddening, too, is total abandonment of codes of conduct guiding the use of force and modern crowd control handling styles, which includes the

proportionality of use of force. The handling styles of the Nigerian security forces in the named butcheries are gravely in violation of the Chapter Four of the 1999 Constitution and various international human rights treaties, signed, ratified or domesticated by Nigeria.

Consequences: We make bold to say that the Nigerian security forces under your administrative midwifery are breeding another insurgency; if not insurgencies in Nigeria. The Board Chairman of this organization (*Intersociety*), Emeka Umeagbalasi, still recalls how he was masterfully taught by your person (Gen Dambazzau, PhD) at the National Open University of Nigeria in the Department of Criminology & Security Studies about *how not to create or encourage triggers of divided society and how to nip personal and structural violence in the bud using democratic and constitutional pluralism.*

One of such seminal books in Gen Dambazzau's name is called *Patterns & Trends of Crimes in Nigeria and their control measures.* In the said book, promotion of good governance, respect for and protection of human rights, political tolerance and political inclusion as well as free speech were emphasized as fundamental panaceas for ensuring effective crime control in democratic Nigeria.

Yet, the recent turn of events with respect to the subject matter under discussion, clearly represents the opposite of what academically erudite Gen Dambazzau, as a doctor of criminology, taught the like of Emeka Umeagbalasi at NOUN. The consequences of unleashing State violence on unarmed citizens are unquenchably calamitous. Going by modern theory of violence, no State or any group or individual has monopoly of it. As a matter of fact, violence is very much around and more menacing in the hands of *non-State actors* and its forms

and applications have no limits. Our recent study of modern intra-State or internal violent conflicts, which are very active in 64 countries around the world; clearly showed that most of them started as *peaceful and non-violent agitations or protests*, but became violent and devastating following *violent responses or crackdowns and other poor handling styles by host territorial governments*.

Today, there are a total of 64 active and devastating internal armed conflicts raging in 64 countries around the world as at 2015, involving 591 militia-guerrillas and other armed separatist groups; out of which, 27 internal violent conflicts are ongoing in Africa, involving 167 militia-guerrillas and other armed separatist groups. The Democratic Republic of Congo (former Zaire) presently parades the highest number of armed opposition groups in Africa with 36. We totally concur with a saying that “*the worst peace is better than the best war*”.

That is to say Nigerian present political leaders must learn from recent histories and have a total change of attitude. At a point in the history of Ethiopia of 80s, for instance, fourteen violent conflicts were simultaneously going on in its entire 14 regions, forcing the country to embark on compulsory recruitment of every Tom, Dick and Harry including child-soldiers into its standing army. The country later became the Africa’s largest army with over 500,000 soldiers. The escalated conflicts in Ethiopia initially started between it and its Eritrean region, but got escalated and they were principally as a result of Col Mengistu Haile Mariam’s sit tight and iron fisted leadership and gross political intolerance including violent crackdowns on unarmed opposition groups. He was the country’s brutal dictator from 1974-1991.

In Ivory Coast, it was similar political and violent crackdown against current President Alassane Dramane Quattara and his Dimbokro tribe; paternal descendants of former Muslim rulers of Burkina Faso in mid 90s that plunged the country into violent conflicts (2002-2007 & November 2010-April 2011). In Syria, the internal violent conflict that began in March 2011 has led to killing of over 260,000 citizens and displacement of over half of the population. The conflict is also traced to iron fisted leadership of the Assad family (Hafez Al-Assad, 1971-2000 (died in office) and Bashar al-Assad (son) 2000-date) and violent crackdown on political and sectional opponents. In Somalia, the country is one of the most homogenous and mono-religious (Muslims) countries in the world, yet it was political intolerance and violent crackdown on opposition voices; propelled by political sit-tight of Gen Mohamed Said Bare (1969-1991) that plunged the country into endless internal violent conflict that led to balkanization of the country and lawlessness till date.

For the fact that *modern violence knows no border or boundaries and have given birth to “wars-without-borders”*, the Federal Government of Nigeria, under Gen Muhammadu Buhari must be extremely careful and refrain from breeding or provoking more insurgencies in Nigeria. The population size of Nigeria (estimated at 174 million) defies any form of *humanitarian emergencies and responses* in the event of eruption of another ethno-religious inspired violent insurgency or insurgencies. And it is a common knowledge among modern conflict theorists that *value and identity based violent reactions or conflicts are usually endless and devastating than* violent conflicts over economic needs and interests. Nigerian security chiefs and political leaders must stop provoking and breeding more insurgencies and in the event of eruption of more insurgencies in the country; *their weapons of mass murder of today, will*

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become den guns only capable of shepherding their escape routes to refugee camps.

Demands: We firmly demand that your two important public offices must speak and advise President Muhammadu Buhari in Arabic and Hausa Languages that he understands very well and correctly that Nigeria under his presidency must not be plunged into another insurgency on account of the militant and hostile approaches adopted by his administration in responding to peaceful and non-violent agitations of pro-Biafra activists. IPOB issue is a time bomb on account of its members and supporters scattering in *the darkest and brightest parts of the world* and access to modern types and forms of violence is limitless, in addition to the reigning age of information technology or ICT. Other potential insurgencies may also abound in the country waiting to be provoked or exploded.

President Muhammadu Buhari must also be advised and made to understand in his native Hausa and Arabic Languages that a lot has changed between when he held sway in the military as a coup leader and as civil war participant and present times. Warfare methodologies have since undergone a series of metamorphoses.

It is our further demand that those involved in the butcheries under reference, that is to say the Commanding Officer of 144 Battalion of the Nigerian Army in Abia State; Lt Col Kasim Umar Sidi, the Abia State Commissioner of Police, Habila Hosea, the Aba Area Commander, Peter Nwagbara, the Commanding Officer of the Nigerian Navy (Finance & Logistics Command), Owerre-Nta, Abia State, the Anambra State Commissioner of Police, Hosea Karma, the Commanding Officer of the Onitsha Military Cantonment, Col Isa Abdullahi,

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the Chief of Army Staff, Major Gen Turkur Buratai and Inspector General of Police, Solomon Arase should be thoroughly investigated and be made to account for atrocities under reference.

Specifically the Aba massacre and dumping of 11 murdered bodies inside the Aba-Port Harcourt Road Borrow Pit should be thoroughly and conclusively investigated. The two Army Commanding officers under reference (Col Abdullahi and Lt Col Umar Sidi) should be withdrawn from the Southeast. The present practice whereby the Zone is flooded with and dominated by young and murderous soldiers of core northern Muslim origin should be reversed. Soldiers to be posted in the Southeast Zone should comprise those of other geopolitical zones; likewise their commanding officers. Soldiers should also be barred from involvement in handling peaceful and non-violent protests and processions in Nigeria; whether such are organized by IPOB or members of other social groups in the country.

Nigerian security forces should also be barred from using live bullets and assault rifles in handling or controlling peaceful and non-violent public protests or processions; and non-lethal crowd control gadgets with minimum force (if extremely necessary) should be used. Bearing in mind the international law and UN's *principle of complementarity*, which is also enshrined in the ICC Statute of 1998, ratified by Nigeria on 27th of September 2001, this letter of ours is directed to your two important offices in the hope that you will be “*willing and able*” to frontally address the issues under complaint.

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Yours Faithfully,

**For: International Society for Civil Liberties & the Rule of Law (Onitsha,
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Attachments: (1) video CD containing images of the IPOB peaceful prayers/meeting at the National High School and mass shooting & killing of their members by soldiers, police & Navy personnel in Abia State. (2) Photos of 11 murdered IPOB members dumped inside Aba-Port Harcourt Road Borrow Pit by soldiers of the 144 Battalion of the Nigerian Army, near Aba.

CC:

- 1. National Security Adviser, Retired Gen Babagana Mungono**

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- 2. Chief Justice of Nigeria, Hon Justice Mahmud Mohammed**
- 3. Inspector General of Police, Mr. Solomon Arase**
- 4. Attorney General of the Federation & Minister for Justice, Mr. Abubakar Malami (SAN)**
- 5. United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki Moon**
- 6. United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein**
- 7. United Nations Chief Repertoire on Extra Judicial Killings, Prof Christof Heyns**
- 8. European Union (EU) High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security, Ms Federica Morgherini**
- 9. Head/African Research Group & Deputy Head/Research Analyst, UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Dr. Clare Thomas**
- 10. Head, Political Section of the US Embassy in Nigeria**
- 11. Head, Political Section of the UK High Commission in Nigeria**

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