



Network for Peace Builders

## **PRESS STATEMENT ON THE QUIT NOTICE TO IGBOS IN THE NORTH**

June 12, 2017

In this time when the nation is faced with a number of challenges ranging from acts of terrorism and its attendant consequences, poverty, unemployment and youth restiveness lingering in the air of this vibrant country, the last thing Nigeria needs is more trouble.

As people of faith, we are appalled by the amount of hate and dangerous speeches spreading from different parts of the country. Consequently, we wish to express deep concern at the recent press release from a coalition of Northern youth organizations that gave Igbos living in the North an ultimatum to leave before October 1st, 2017. This ultimatum is a threat to our diversity and inclusiveness as a nation, which are necessary values needed for a pluralistic society like ours to flourish. The Constitution guarantees all Nigerian citizens the inalienable right to live and do business anywhere in our country. This right must be respected by all, regardless of the difficult challenges we face today as a nation.

We appeal to all to embrace the tenets of our religions, which posit love for each other above all other actions. We urge people to be mindful of media messages, especially from social media, and to check them for authenticity before they are circulated. Violent, aggressive, or slanderous messages that can lead to conflict should be ignored and reported to relevant authorities.

We call on our youth to be vigilant and ensure that they are not made the tools of conflict entrepreneurs, whose only aim is to make profit from conflict situations and to have the youths pay the price for their gain. We call on youth to be ambassadors of peace, and be mindful of the fact that the future belongs to them.

We wish to appreciate the efforts of governments at every level for ensuring peace and protecting citizens in our nation.

We call on governments at all levels to foster greater dialogue among leaders of all strata to better address the grievances that are driving both the press release in question and the agitation that provoked it.

We urge security agencies to increase its efforts to ensure that the lives and properties of citizens are given full protection, and to do all within their mandate to ensure that our much cherished unity and peace is preserved.



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Signature

*[Handwritten signatures]*