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### **A Call for Peace in Southern Kaduna**

Just as the Nation is faced by War against Insurgency, violent conflicts, hate and dangerous speech and various challenges affecting peaceful coexistence and development is a trend that if not addressed will further degenerate into chaos and subsequently affect the unity of the country.

The recent violent clash in Southern Kaduna is one of the social problems that has been bedeviling the region and in recent times climaxed into increased loss of lives, properties and has created disharmony amongst the various ethnic and religious groups in the state and beyond.

The Interfaith Mediation Centre (IMC) frowns at this trend and condemns the spate of violence in Southern Kaduna. This is unacceptable and can only bring the region and the entire nation to an economic, social and political regression if critical measures are not put in place and sustained.

IMC recognizes the move by state and non-state actors, Security Operatives, the National Assembly, state governors, security operatives, NEMA, SEMA, SOKAPU, Miyetti Allah, JNI, CAN, Conflict Management Mitigation and Regional Council (CMMRC) Kaduna, Community Peace Observers (CPOs), Civil Society Organizations as well as some International bodies, in taking decisive measures to bring an end to the recurring acts of violence and destruction in Southern Kaduna and calls on these stakeholders for sustainability. Hopefully, these measures shall soon yield positive result

Like any other state in Nigeria, Kaduna state has its ethno religious peculiarities which are ordinarily supposed to be harnessed and used as our strengths. There is indeed the need to awaken the consciousness of all and sundry on the peace declaration that was signed by religious leaders from both faiths on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2002 in Kaduna. This declaration serves as symbol of a system of true federalism where all ethnic, religious or even economic affiliates' voices can be heard.

IMC also calls on stakeholders to continue to embrace dialogue in resolving conflict as a better alternative to violence, as violence can only lead to more destruction and regression of societies and the world over.

IMC continues to strive in its efforts towards ensuring peaceful coexistence and encouraging the need for an inclusive society free from violent ethno religious conflicts, it remains committed to promoting pragmatic solutions and is always ready to partner with stakeholders towards this drive.