



Lower Niger Congress

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A GLOBAL ALERT ON THE RESUMPTION OF THE 1967 "POLICE ACTION" IN EASTERN NIGERIA UNDER NEW CODE NAMES: "OPERATION PYTHON DANCE" & "OPERATION CROCODILE SMILE" – by the LNC

December 5th, 2016.

The Lower Niger Congress hereby alerts the global community that the Eastern Region of Nigeria has again come under a massive military occupation orchestrated under the guise of a federal government-sanctioned internal security operation codenamed "**Operation Crocodile Smile**" and "**Operation Python Dance**".

This current occupation is, in many ominous ways, reminiscent of the so-called "Police Action" launched in 1967 by the then disputed "Federal Military Government of Nigeria" during which a North-inspired Yakubu Gowon led the Lagos military junta to orchestrate an invasion of the then Eastern Region of Nigeria. Stated goal of this assault was to forcibly halt exit of the East from the Federation of Nigeria so as to save the citizens from massive xenophobic killings of genocidal proportion which were being perpetrated against Easterners throughout the rest of Nigeria, particularly in the North.

It would be recalled that the "Police Action", which was ordered by Gowon in 1967, heralded the genocidal Civil War (1967-1970) levied by the rest of Nigeria against the then Eastern Region (whose constituents had, in a desperate self-preservation bid, declared itself independent as "The Republic of Biafra"). The Gowon-led military alliance ended up killing over 3.5 million Easterners and confiscating their assets till date.

The Lower Niger Congress (LNC), with great foreboding, asserts:

(1) That the invaders/aggressors originate from the same territories as was the case in 1967; the troops come from Nigeria's Northern and Western Regions of the pre-war period while the invaded territory is the same Eastern Region as in 1967.

(2) The expressly declared motive for the current invasion of Eastern Nigeria tagged "Operation Python Dance"/"Operation Crocodile Smile" is exactly the same as what informed Gowon's 1967 "Police Action", namely to halt the secessionist bid of the Eastern Region.

The LNC has carefully studied the official statement issued by Nigeria Army spokesman, Colonel Sagir Musa, as reported by the media where references were made to other military exercises undertaken or being undertaken in other Regions of Nigeria, including Operations Shirin Harbi (3rd Division), Harbin Kunana (1st Division) and Crocodile Smile (2nd & 82 Divisions) as well as the assurances that "Operation Python Dance", now being undertaken in the Southeast, is not targeted at MASSOB/IPOB or any individuals or groups.

Of particular interest to the LNC are Operations Crocodile Smile and Python Dance, both of which relate to the Lower Niger Territory currently described by Nigeria as the "Southsouth" and "Southeast" geopolitical zones.

According to the aforementioned statement by Colonel Sagir Musa, 'Operation Crocodile Smile' in the Niger Delta, was launched "with the overarching aim of reducing the incidences of illegal bunkering, oil theft, sea piracy and other peculiar criminalities across the entire region".

Regarding the 'Operation Python Dance' being undertaken in the Southeast, the statement went on to assert that "the prevalent security issues such as armed robbery, banditry, kidnappings, herdsman-farmers clashes, communal clashes and violent secessionist attacks, amongst other security threats in the region, would be targeted".

Ordinarily, citizens should be happy and indeed proud that the military and para-military forces of the nation are taking steps to combat violent crimes and contain security threats that come upon the state or its citizens in or from any part, within or outside the country.

However, where, as the case at hand in the Lower Niger, disputations and agitations arising from longstanding but neglected constitutional grievances are left to degenerate, fester and mutate into all manners of complex problems and thus manifest in what is now profiled, calibrated and labeled in terms that generally fall under the omnibus "Security Threat". This mischaracterization of the real issues at stake becomes the justification for requiring massive military operations to suppress **constitutional grievances and political problems which ordinarily require political solutions** rather than military force. **Whatever security and criminal acts that are often triggered by willful neglect of such political problems are merely tangential and not central to the solution matrix.**

For the avoidance of doubt, the LNC is as appalled as anyone can be about robbery, kidnapping, sea piracy and other crimes listed by the Nigeria military authorities for their current intervention in aid of civil authorities in Eastern Nigeria.

Where the LNC raises the red flag is the deliberate criminalization of the Self-determination agitations of both the Niger-Delta, which demands what has generally been tagged – "Resource Control" and the rest of Eastern Nigeria where pro-Biafra agitation is being championed by MASSOB, IPOB and others.

It should be recalled that the sole demand put forward by the Niger-Delta Avengers, via the media, at the commencement of their campaign was "The Restoration of The Sovereignty of the Old Eastern Region".

In the absence of any credible evidence by the military, the Lower Niger Congress roundly rejects the charge of "**violent secessionist attacks**" alleged by the aforementioned statement of Colonel Sagir Musa over the heads of unarmed self-determination agitators in what seems to be a false premise upon which mass killings of indigenous peoples could be validly anchored in the name of security-related military operations.

Coming on the heels of the recent Amnesty International (AI) Report which indicts the Nigeria Military for the totally unjustifiable killing over 150 unarmed pro-Biafra agitators (a figure considered far too conservative from the reality by MASSOB which puts the casualty figures at over 2000), it is curious that

the same military establishment now turns around to accuse the unarmed self-determination agitators of "violent secessionist attacks".

In the absence of any visibly sincere engagement with the legitimate demands for restoration of ownership and control rights of the Niger Delta to their God-given but hijacked oil and gas assets, the LNC rejects the blanket criminalization of the Niger Delta agitation for equitable ownership and control structures for its oil and gas assets, now tagged "oil theft" and "sea piracy", by the enforcers of the indigenous peoples' hijacked sovereignty.

It would be recalled that the LNC had on the 5th of November 2015 addressed the global media during the massive pro-Biafra agitations that swept the entire length and breadth of the Lower Niger territory, (so-called Southeast and Southsouth), on the issues driving the agitations.

In that press conference, the LNC posited that the ongoing agitations represented a practical expression of the unaddressed constitutional grievances of Eastern Nigeria by a younger generation in that territory who genuinely feel totally frustrated by the adamant refusal of minders of unitary Nigeria to address the well-known issues that had made life so unbearable for them to the extent that they are prepared to die in their search for immediate solution.

It bears repetition here to remind all stakeholders including the unitary government of Nigeria, the military high command, the international oil companies (IOC) operating in the Lower Niger Territory of Nigeria and all those proposing various solutions to the Nigeria quagmire that it was the jettisoning and subsequent abandonment of the federal constitutional basis, upon which Nigeria was founded as one political union, that is responsible for both the Niger Delta and the larger Biafra Agitations. **The deafening clamor for geopolitical restructuring reverberating across Nigeria, escalating chaos in the national economy and menacing collapse of the badly fractured Nigerian Union are all politically-rooted problems whose solutions lie beyond the reach of massive military operations.**

Let it be known to the global community that the populace in Eastern Nigeria is interpreting this invasion against the background of the undisguised geo-ethnic colorations in which a North-led alliance, masquerading as the "Federal Government of Nigeria", has mobilized the military wing of that alliance to, once again, invade the Eastern Region of Nigeria with a mission to brutally suppress the legitimate self-determination rights, desires and pursuits of the indigenous peoples of Eastern Nigeria. Easterners have been treated as slaves in a Nigerian union which now unilaterally defined by that Alliance via a fraudulently imposed 1999 Constitution that departs from the basis upon which Nigeria became one country at Independence in 1960.

It is noteworthy that the same North/Southwest alliance against the Eastern Region had rallied and deployed all manners of violence, subterfuge, falsehood and propaganda to hound out a President of Nigeria from the East, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, under the banner of an ad hoc political-war machinery they called the All Peoples Congress (APC) in the 2015 general elections.

Whereas no one can ask the President of Nigeria not to tackle crime and security challenges that arise in any part of Nigeria under his watch, neither will the LNC ask the descendants of Uthman Dan Fodio and the political scions of Alhaji Ahmadu Bello, not to fight to retain the estate of their great grandfather, Nigeria, which had been bequeathed to them to by the colonial power of Britain in 1960. No one should also expect that the traumatized peoples of Eastern Nigeria, who had for over 50 years been at the

receiving end of the conspiratorial alliance of the North and the Southwest, would remain peacefully subservient in their misery, pain and enslavement while blindly, ignorantly and unquestionably obeying the call of, and pledging allegiance and loyalty to "unitary Nigeria" without seeking any kind of self-redemption. Commonsense demands that no one should wish away the capacity and unalienable right of this endangered people, to perceive and interpret what is being visited unjustifiably upon them, for what it is. Such would be an unmitigated folly.

ACCORDINGLY,

(1) Let it be known to the whole World that those being shot in Eastern Nigeria, along with their grieving parents, relations and compatriots, are constantly looking at an imaginary map of Nigeria, permanently spread open before the eyes of their mind, to see from which part the Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces sent to shoot them comes, to see from which part the General Officer Commanding the 82nd Division, which Co-ordinates these invasions comes, to see from which part the Army spokesman who explains to the world the mission of the invaders comes, too see from which part the Field Commanders of the killing "Operations", whether of the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Mobile Police or the State Security Service (SSS) comes.

They look on that map to see from which part comes the controllers of the mass media, print, electronic or social, which are reporting, misreporting, under-reporting or blanking out the reports on the atrocities they witness and endure daily.

If all they see in that placing of names in that imaginary map, are people from the North and the Southwest, it does not matter to them much you crow about the "Federal Government of Nigeria", or "the Armed Forces of Nigeria" or "the Nigeria Police". All the they see are malevolent people from the rest of Nigeria collaborating on a mission of death, aggression and intimidation on the soil of, and against the people of Eastern Nigeria.

"Unitary Nigeria", for them, becomes the name of an enemy alliance that is determined to exterminate them. It gets worse when they look back through the decades and see the same pattern, repeated over and over, of the same set of people, from the rest of Nigeria, always banding together against the East to kill, steal and to destroy.

Many amongst them then yearn for the return of Biafra of their dreams which once stepped up to rescue them from this vicious relentless enemy that goes by "Unitary Nigeria".

The Nigeria they knew and trusted, died in 1966 when the Charter defining its 1st Republic's federal parliamentary democracy got toppled and discarded. The counterfeit of the original Charter, which still fraudulently operates and imposes itself over the polity, does not include Eastern Nigeria, barring the purpose of being ravished by its malevolent imposition.

(2) Let it be known to the whole world that whatever happens to Eastern Nigeria from the current invasion, in terms of bloodshed, misery and dislocation, criminal responsibility will attach to the perpetrators, especially the current political leaders of Eastern Nigeria who, for extremely self-serving reasons, collude with the enemy to inflict pain and death upon their people, just so they can retain the bloodstained benefits of One-Nigeria, instead of aligning with their oppressed people to reject the master-servant definition of Nigeria. Assailing and annihilating the crux of self-determination pursuits of

those being criminalized and killed by agents of the unitary Nigerian state on the ancestral soil of Easterners is the object of the military campaigns being staged in the Region.

In this regard at a time when the generality of Easterners have rejected the enslaving 1999 Constitution imposed by the aforementioned alliance, the LNC and the people will hold ALL those from Eastern Nigeria, who still embrace the fraudulent 1999 Constitution which empower the enemy, as the basis the Nigerian Federation, accountable. The culprits and villains include governors, senators, federal house representatives, state assembly members, ministers, commissioners, council chairmen and councilors, party executives, from ward to federal level.

The LNC posits that it is this tiny band of politicians from Eastern Nigeria, who cling tenaciously unto the fraudulent and shackling 1999 Constitution, that really validate this dubious conspiracy of some Nigerians and enable the pretense to be maintained that there exists, in reality, one "Federal Republic of Unitary Nigeria".

The perception is indeed rife amongst the populace in Eastern Nigeria that this tiny band of Eastern Nigeria politicians are deeply complicit for the current invasion as they now live in utter fear of the young self-determination agitators who are taking the Sokoto Islamic Caliphate bullets on the streets of Eastern Nigeria. These Easterner sellouts are no longer confident they could safely go to Eastern Nigeria without the massive presence of the security apparatus of their beloved unitary One-Nigeria.

(3) In furtherance to the resolutions of the SOLEMN ASSEMBLY OF THE PEOPLES OF THE LOWER NIGER IN PORT HARCOURT on 27th April 2015, which decided to seek a Referendum on the future of the territory in the face of a badly fractured Nigeria, the LNC calls out to the global community, on behalf of the peoples of the Lower Niger, to help halt the onslaught and violent advance of a vicious murderous alliance illicitly parading itself as the "Federal Republic of Nigeria". The international community should stop and immediately neutralize the Sokoto Caliphate-led military alliance that has sworn to conquer and Islamize Eastern Nigeria by helping to actualize the Referendum quest of the indigenous peoples of the Lower Niger.

Eastern Nigeria today seeks immediate extrication from the failed British imperial experiment in West Africa called "Nigeria" since 1914 and would welcome any help it can get from the global community on this urgent need for the Referendum to decide our peoples' political future.

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Long live the Peoples of the Lower Niger.

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