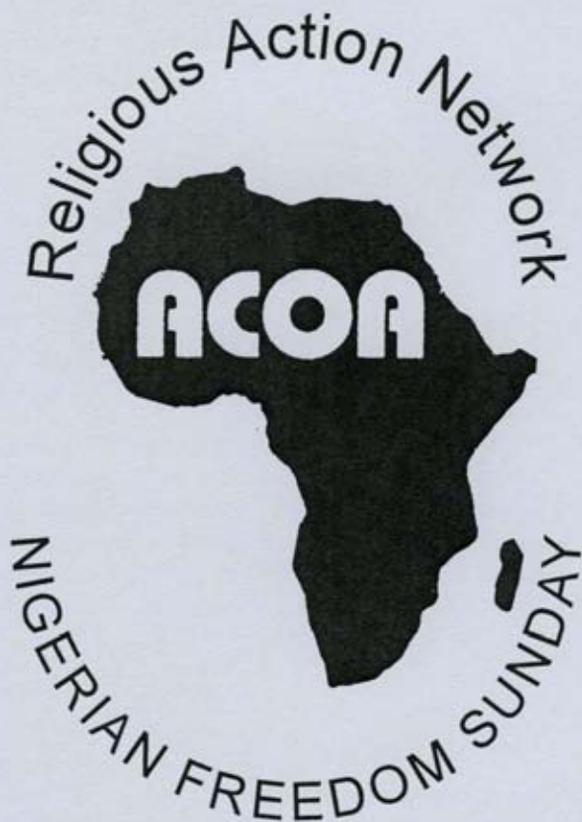


For Peace with Justice in Africa



June 14, 1998

"The human person has been endowed with the inalienable rights to participate in the political life of the country, and to speak and worship freely without fear of persecution. In Nigeria, however, free expression, association and movement are restricted by the routine harassment and imprisonment of human rights defenders, journalists and members of political opposition groups. History has shown that when these rights are denied, the result is polarization."

Joint Statement by the U.S. Catholic Conference and the National Council of Churches

Pray For Human Rights and Democracy in Nigeria

We are gathered on Nigerian Freedom Sunday to raise up the Nigerian peoples' struggle for human rights and justice and to recommit ourselves to this goal in that great African nation. A land blessed with human and natural resources, Nigeria is also cursed by the evil of corrupt leaders who seized power in a coup and have stripped over 100 million people of their human and civil rights.

We pray that the billions of dollars earned from Nigeria's vast oil wealth will be used to rebuild neglected schools and hospitals, feed and nurture the precious children of Nigeria and no longer be used by the military to oppress and kill. We stand in support of the Nigerian people who reject an illegitimate election in which military leader General Sani Abacha is the only candidate - an election to continue his brutal dictatorship in civilian clothes. We urge the immediate release of the imprisoned President-elect Moshood Abiola and thousands of other Nigerians who have sounded the trumpet of freedom and justice.

We remember men and women like Ken Saro-Wiwa, Kudirat Abiola and General Musa Yar' Adua who have given their lives for the sake of peace and justice in Nigeria. We call upon President Clinton to act in strong support of democracy in Nigeria.



Moshood Abiola — Nigerian President-Elect. Chief Abiola won the June 1993 Presidential elections, but was arrested for treason by the military junta who canceled the election after the results were known. Kudirat Abiola, Abiola's wife, was shot dead by unknown gunmen on June 4, 1996. Moshood Abiola is approaching his 4th year in prison without trial.

Chris Anyanwu — Publisher and Editor. Anyanwu, a prominent Nigerian journalist and outspoken women's leader, was arrested in February 1993 and charged with conspiracy to overthrow the government. While Editor-In-Chief of *The Sunday Magazine*, Anyanwu published articles reporting on human rights violations by the Nigerian dictatorship. She was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment by a military court.



Frank Kokori — Union Leader. Kokori, Secretary General of the National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG), has been in detention without charge or trial since August 1994 after he was arrested for organizing an 11-week strike to force the military government to honor the results of the 1993 Nigerian Presidential election. He has been held for nearly four years without charge or trial.



Dr. Beko Ransome — Democracy activist, medical doctor. Dr. Kuti, Chairman of the Campaign for Democracy in Nigeria, a coalition of pro-democracy and human rights groups, was arrested in 1995 and sentenced to 15 years in prison for defending the human rights of people convicted in secret treason trials. He is the founder of the Committee for the Defense of Human Rights and a former President of the Nigerian Medical Association.



Olusegun Obasanjo — Former Nigerian Head of State. General Obasanjo played a leadership role in the international campaign against apartheid and earned respect for his statesmanship and work for world peace. He was jailed in 1995 for 15 years on false charges for demanding that the military government return the country to civilian rule.

Rebecca Ikpe — Civil Servant. Ikpe was convicted of treason for offering support and assistance to Colonel R.S.B. Bello-Fadile, her brother-in-law, who was sentenced to death for treason. She was convicted of distributing his defense submission. She was held incommunicado until mid-1996 and is reported to be ill with malaria and stomach problems.



Support Nigerian Democracy

(1) Write a letter to President Clinton urging him to do everything in his power to secure the immediate release of all Nigerian political prisoners and restore democracy.

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

(2) Support the Nigerian people in their call for economic sanctions.

(3) Put a sign in front of your church supporting a free Nigeria.

(4) Ask your Congressional Representative to support H.R. 1786, the Nigeria Democracy Act, which is now before Congress.

What is the Religious Action Network?

The Religious Action Network (RAN) is a network of over 200 congregations throughout the U.S. formed by The American Committee on Africa (founded in 1953 to support justice and freedom in Africa). RAN was established by Wyatt Tee Walker and Canon Frederick B. Williams.

***Are you willing to support the Religious Action Network?
If you would like more information about what RAN does
and how you can join the network, please contact us.***

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