



ALL EBONYIANS IN DIASPORA

(FOR UNITY & PROSPERITY OF EBONYI STATE)

647 WESTERN BOULEVARD, NOTTINGHAM UK, NG8 5GR

+447442187457



info@ebonyiansindiaspora.org

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President Muhammad Buhari, GCFR
State House
Abuja.
Sir,

Open Letter Re: EbubeAgu Security Network & 2023 General Elections in Ebonyi State

A letter Issued by All Ebonyians in Diaspora to the Nigerian President, Muhammad Buhari GCFR, on Security Assessment in Ebonyi State And its Implications for 2023 General Elections.

1. All Ebonyians in Diaspora (AED) is a group made up of Ebonyi State Indigenes (Ebonyians), including children born to Ebonyians that live outside Nigeria. One of our key aims is to promote peace, justice, equality and democratic freedom in Ebonyi State.
2. We are horribly miffed by the certain anti-people tendencies presently manifesting in Ebonyi State, under the supervision of Engr. Chief David Nweze Umahi, the state governor. Of critical concern are the activities of EbubeAgu Security Network (ESN) a security network established and financed by the state governor.
3. Ebonyi State has, without doubt, become a war zone under the drumbeat of Ebonyi State-sponsored agents. There have been consistent and reprehensible disregard to the rule of law, intimidation of political opponents, abduction and torture of innocent citizens, and flagrant stifling of the opposition parties in the state.
4. It is in the face of these unspeakable potential threats that AED arise to alert Mr. President, the National Security Adviser, the Inspector General of Police, the legislature, all Nigerians and the whole world on these disturbing realities. As key partners in the Ebonyi project, we call for a drastic action of all parties copied here to forestall any unforeseen dangers in Ebonyi State.
5. Gov. David Umahi who was elected for a second term in 2015, is the third democratically elected governor of Ebonyi State. Unfortunately, the last few years have seen the governor and his government metamorphose into an anachronistic maximum ruler to the bewilderment of Ebonyians and non-Ebonyians alike. His activities are in utter confrontation to the letters of the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, as amended.
6. We have noticed that the Ebonyi State under Governor Umahi has no accommodation for divergent opinions. Offering a contrary opinion, or asking critical questions on policies and programmes of government, is tantamount to signing one's death warrant, as such a person would be visited with an inexorable dose of vituperations and venom. A recent video, which circulated online globally, showed footage of the governor directing and supervising the flogging of civil servants by soldiers. Mr President, it is rather disheartening to say that the said flogging is an iceberg compared to everyday government-sponsored brutality across Ebonyi State. Unlike the governor's penchant for using the ESN for his dirty jobs, the flogging was done by personnel in military uniform. At the moment, it is even unclear if those 'evil floggers of Ebonyians' belonged to any of Nigerian constitutionally recognised security forces, or disguised members of the ESN.
7. Therefore, Mr. President, we humbly request your indulgence to make a list of some of the atrocious acts sanctioned or defended by the David Umahi administration as a testament to this missive. In all of these instances, there is either video or pictorial evidences to suggest that they actually happened.
8. On 13th November, 2022, Chief Nwigwe Chibueze Uzor, the National Coordinator Ebonyi Youths Mobilization for PDP governorship Candidate in the state was kidnapped by ESN in his country home Ugwulangwu in Ohaozara LGA. At the time of making this publication the whereabouts of Chief Nwigwe is still unknown.

9. On 9th November 2022, a former Commissioner for Information in Ebonyi State, Chief Abia Onyike, was abducted and manhandled by the ESN operatives in the state. Chief Onyike was allegedly taken to the ESN office at the Old Government House in Abakaliki where he was terribly tortured.

10. On 20th October, 2022, Professor Benard Ifeanyi Odoh - the APGA governorship candidate and his campaign team escaped death after an attack by Gov. Umahi's ESN and suspected hoodlums loyal to the APC Governorship Candidate, Hon. Ogbonnaya Nwifuru. This came three days after APGA had raised alarm over a plot to attack its candidates.

11. On Sunday, 16th October 2022, a former House of Representatives member that represented Ohaozara/Onicha/Ivo Federal Constituency, Hon. Linus Abaa Okorie was abducted by the ESN, and tortured at the ESN cell at the old Government House, Abakaliki. Thereafter, Hon. Okorie was transferred to the Nigerian Police Force. Hon. Okorie is currently being remanded in Abakaliki prisons with trumped up charges. It is noteworthy to point out that Hon. Okorie is the 2023 Labour Party's Senatorial Candidate for Ebonyi South, the same position that Gov. Umahi's is gunning for under the platform of the APC.

12. On 9th of January 2022, Nwoba Chika Nwoba, a Spokesperson of the People's Democratic Party in the State, suffered a similar fate when he was abducted by thugs loyal to the Speaker of Ebonyi State's House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Francis Nwifuru along the Abakaliki-Enugu Federal Highway.

13. Engr. Solomon Ukpai was abducted from his house in January 2022, taken to the ESN torture Cell at the Old Government House in Abakaliki, and tortured for 10 days, and released without charges. Note that the PDP State Chairman, Mr. Tochukwu Okorie recently alleged on a national Television that over 20 innocent youths of Ebonyi State are currently undergoing torture at the said torture chamber in the old Government House, Abakaliki.

14. A former Commissioner for Works in the State, Engr. Paul Okorie was attacked by the ESN in Ugwulangwu Ohaozara LGA for holding a meeting with members of his political family belonging to the APC in 2018.

15. Mr. President, the media and the fourth estate of the realm has become an endangered species under Gov. Umahi. Rewind to July 2017, Mr Charles Otu, an Abakaliki based journalist and a Guardian Newspaper reporter was beaten and detained in an underground cell in the old government house for days. Available information has it that Mr. Otu fainted severally, but revived thereafter. Two other journalists Chijoke Agwu and Peter Okutu, with DailySun and Vanguard respectively were banned by Governor Umahi from accessing any government buildings in Ebonyi State. Their crime was that they made publications that vilified Gov. Umahi in their tabloids.

16. We have noted with dismay, the various evidences and reports including that from The Human Rights Defenders Foundation (HURIDE) exposing the fact that APC chieftains in Ebonyi State are collecting PVC from residents of the State especially those in the hinterlands with financial inducement of N10,000 per person for the purpose of rigging the forthcoming 2023 elections. This act is contrary to the provisions of Section 22 of the Electoral Act 2022.

17. In May 2021, Barr Amos Ogbonnaya a former Coordinator of Anuagata Development Centre in the state was abducted and beaten to near death with his bones cracked by the ESN. Again, this happened days after Barr. Ogbonnaya criticized Gov. Umahi on national TV.

18. To underscore their disdain for the opposition, the Ebonyi State government has banned meetings of opposition political parties. Recently, ESN and the NPF in collaboration, disrupted a football match in Onicha LGA of the State as a means of underscoring the effectiveness of the ban. The fact that Ebonyians cannot have any outdoor activities, like watching a local football match, is rather compelling on us to act before Ebonyi State drifts into anarchy.

19. Mr. President, the entire Nigeria is aware of the disruption of the Ebonyi 'Obidient' rally in support of the Presidential Candidate of the Labour Party, Peter Obi; the first and only state where such an incident has been witnessed nationally.

20. Recently, the Ebonyi ESN led by Mr Ernest Nweze who is the state's vice chairman of APC for Ebonyi South disrupted meeting of opposition political parties chairmen, picked up the leader of the group, Mr Ani Pascal who is the state chairman of Accord Party and detained him in the ESN cell at Old Government House after serious torture.

21. Since January 2021, Engr. David Umahi through the agency of his government appointees foisted a fratricidal war in Effium Community of Ebonyi State. Over 5000 persons including children, women, the physically-challenged and other vulnerable groups have been killed in that war. Ebonyi State Command under CP Garba Aliyu has been complicit in that war which continued unabated in spite Federal Government's efforts to stop it. The CP released all armed war mercenaries arrested in Effium war theatre including the 55 armed warriors arrested in Effium by the GOC 82 Division and handed over to the police command for prosecution in April 2021. In September 2022, it was discovered that the armoury of Ebonyi State Police Command was used in Effium war. Following the leakage of the criminal act, the armourer of Ebonyi State Police Command, Inspector Chika Elom; and ex-soldier, James Agena and many others were arrested. For over 90 days now, both CP Garba Aliyu and Engr. David Umahi have refused to prosecute those criminals or issue any statement on that matter. It is believed that the duo of Umahi and CP Aliyu Garba are covering up that unprecedented crime while killings of innocent people are still going on.

22. It is obvious that Engr. David Umahi's recent lobby for the cancellation of CP Garba Aliyu's transfer from Ebonyi State was to enable the conspiracy which sustained the ongoing war and daily killing of over 5000 children, women and other vulnerable groups in Effium Community since two years to continue to thrive. As a result, the Effium war is still ongoing and has crossed over to neighbouring Benue State.

23. Another prove of the conspiracy between Engr. David Umahi and CP Aliyu Garba is the case of the five (5) missing NELAN Engineers suspected to have been killed on the orders of the governor because of their refusal to allow Umahi handle their ADB contract funds. The police alleged that they found both the killers and corpses of the engineers but the corpses failed DNA tests.

All Ebonyians in Diaspora hereby demand as follows:

1. That the EbubeAgu Security Network, ESN, which has literally become an arm of APC by virtue of its command by Ebonyi State chairman of APC, Stanley Okoro-Emeagha, and Ebonyi South Zonal Chairman of APC, Friday Nnanna, should be banned from participating in any activities related to the 2023 general election in Ebonyi State as their activities have shown that they are primarily created to distort opposition political parties and opponents. ESN lacks the basic requirement of neutrality because of the involvement of aforementioned partisan persons in its command structure and other members of APC as its operatives.
2. That Mr President call the Ebonyi State Government to order, vis-a-viz terminating every anti-democratic action in the state, with respect to kidnapping, torture of citizens by ESN, and stifling of opposition political parties.
3. That Governor Umahi be made to enter a commitment to stop the further tormenting of political opponents, and to ensure a peaceful campaign and election ahead of the 2023 general election in the state.
4. That the politicisation of security of lives and property by the Nigerian Police Force as seen when the transfer of Ebonyi CP, Aliyu Garba, was cancelled by IGP Usman Baba Alkali following the alleged lobby of Ebonyi traditional rulers and Governor David Umahi, be condemned. The IGP should redeploy the state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Garba Aliyu because of his known collaboration with the state government in undermining the opposition in the state.
5. We request that the IGP, Usman Baba order a very diligent investigation with a tactical team under his direct supervision into the allegations of a torture chamber existing in Ebonyi State old Government House, Abakaliki with a view to freeing the incarcerated victims.
6. That Hon. Linus Okorie and other illegal political detainees should be unconditionally released, or charged to court as appropriate because justice delayed is justice denied.
7. Ebonyians in Diaspora join HURIDE, Coalition of United Political Parties Ebonyi State Chapter and other well meaning Nigerians in condemning the violation of the Section 22 of the Electoral Act 2022 by buying of PVC of Ebonyians, in strong terms and call on the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), the Department of Security Services and the Nigerian Police Force to quickly intervene, arrest and prosecute all the perpetrators involved.
8. We call on the National Human Rights Commission, the Public Complaints Commission, the Human Rights and Conflict Resolution Centre, and other Civil Societies to step in and lend their voices against these political malfeasance and attempts to defraud the 2023 electoral process in Ebonyi State. We also invite all civil and human rights societies to condemn the torture and general human rights violation currently been perpetuated by the Ebonyi State Government via the ESN outfit, and the conspiracy of the Nigerian Police Force in the process.

9. The federal government should order an investigation into the involvement of Ebonyi State Police Command's armoury in Effium war and the complicity of CP Garba Aliyu thereof, and prosecute CP Aliyu Garba alongside Inspector Chika Elom, James Agena and others involved in the conspiracy for killing over 5000 innocent people in Effium Community.

10. The International Criminal Court should investigate and prosecute the out-going governor of Ebonyi State, Engr. David Umahi, for the unabating genocide which he foisted on Effium Community which led to the killing of over 5000 persons comprising children, women, youths, the aged, the physically-challenged and other vulnerable groups.


11. We request that all embassies copied should place a travel ban on Engr David Umahi and his family until he and his cohort have answered to the crime of genocide committed in Effium, Ohaukwu LGA of Ebonyi State.

Signed:

1. Daniel Nwibo (PhD), (UK & Japan) - President-General, All Ebonyians in Diaspora
2. Dr. Ogbonnaya Ngene (Canada) - Secretary, All Ebonyians in Diaspora
3. Dr. Martins Itumoh (UK) - Europe Representative, All Ebonyians in Diaspora
4. Dr. (Rev) Justin EzeUgo (USA) - North America Representative, All Ebonyians in Diaspora
5. Dr. Sunday Ucha (Saudi Arabia) - Asia Representative, All Ebonyians in Diaspora
6. Chief Monday Ogbule (South Africa) - African Representative, All Ebonyians in Diaspora.

Cc:

The National Security Adviser
The Inspector General of Police
Director State Security Services
The Nigerian Senate
The Nigerian House of Representatives
Ebonyi State Governor
British High Commission
United States Embassy
Australian High Commission
High Commission of Canada
UAE Embassy
South Africa High Commission
Turkish Embassy
Amnesty International
The International Criminal Court (ICC)
The Commissioner of police, Ebonyi State


Dr. D. NWIBO

PRESIDENT-GENERAL
ALL EBONYIANS IN DIASPORA
20/11/2022