

# FOUNDATION FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE & DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

## PRESS RELEASE

### AN URGENT APPEAL TO THE NIGERIAN SECURITY SERVICES

The Nigerian Armed Forces have won acclaim all over the world in peace keeping operations starting from Congo in the 1960s, Lebanon in the 1970s, Somalia, Liberia, Sierra Leone in the 1980s to 90s and of recent in the Sudan. The Nigerian Police has also trained Police forces from a number of African and Caribbean countries in addition to peace keeping duties.

The Nigerian Security Forces had first hand experience of civil wars in their peace keeping operations. The gruesome barbarity of militias in Sierra Leone and Liberia and the misery of Darfurians in Sudan will never be erased in the memory of members of the Nigerian contingent. It is a well known fact that the fundamental cause of all these conflicts is due to poor leadership arising from dictators who wanted to remain in power for life at all cost. Thus in countries where the armed forces followed the whims and caprices of dictators like Siad Barre in Somalia, Mobutu in the Congo and Samuel Doe in Liberia, the ultimate end is chaos and civil war which destroyed those nations and their institutions including their armed forces. The Nigerian armed forces as an institution has to a large extent contributed to the stability of Nigeria, although the fact remains that in the past, a few of their over ambitious members have also contributed to our misery.

In Nigeria of today we have a civilian dictator, President Obasanjo, who has an insatiable lust for power. The power he uses for his personal satisfaction, give patronage to his cronies, and to punish the rest of Nigeria as shown by his inability to guarantee security in our homes, highways and in the air, callous increase of fuel prices at will, inability to maintain basic services, and afflicting us with grinding poverty. To perpetuate his power, he rigged the election in 2003, attempted to become a life president, disregards the constitution and court injunctions with impunity and cannot tolerate opposition. The lives of those who opposed him have ended tragically (remember Bola Ige, Abubakar Rimi's wife, Harry Marshall etc). Recently, he undemocratically anointed his successor and also undemocratically forced the executive of his party to carve out a niche for him in retirement, which is an indirect way of perpetuating himself in power. The fact that there is no reliable

voters register despite billions of naira already spent is an indication of a massive plan to rig the 2007 elections or other ulterior motives.

The National Assembly and Civil Society groups have done their best by thwarting his attempts to illegally extend his tenure. Now is the turn of the Nigerian armed forces to do their own part in protecting this country by making sure that the elections are not rigged and that the rule of law and the security of people and property is maintained. What is expected of our security forces is to make sure that they don't support the agents of the ruling party to stuff boxes with dubious voting papers, or connive to change the results and also not to discriminate, harass or shoot supporters and agents of opposition parties as happened in the 2003 election. In the event that the party and government in power decides to ignore the will of the electorates, Nigerians may find it fit to challenge them in a peaceful demonstration. In such circumstances, we urge the Security Services to prevent arson but not maim or shoot protesters so that justice can be done and an orderly change of power can happen as in Ukraine and Georgia. In this way the interest and dignity of the institution of the Nigerian Armed Forces could be maintained thus saving Nigeria from the path of Somalia, Rwanda, Congo and Liberia. We urge the leaders of these forces to follow the patriotic example of Senate President, Ken Nnamani, which led to the restoration of respect and dignity to the legislative house.

*Long Live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!*

*Long Live the Foundation for Good Governance and Development in Nigeria!!*

For and on behalf of *the Foundation*:

Dr. Arabo Bayo  
General Secretary

[DrArabo@fggn.org](mailto:DrArabo@fggn.org)  
(Tel: +44 7900 588 384)

Ahmed Sani Stores  
Chairman,  
Media & Publicity Committee  
[Ahmed.Sani@fggn.org](mailto:Ahmed.Sani@fggn.org)  
(Tel: +44 7966 969 243)

FGGN Secretariat

6 Lineker Close

Castlefield, Stafford

Staffordshire, ST16 1AL, UK

Tel: +44 1785 244 636 E-mail: [Secretary@fggn.org](mailto:Secretary@fggn.org), [info@fggn.org](mailto:info@fggn.org)

Website: [www.fggn.org](http://www.fggn.org)