



Biafra Government In Exile (BGIE)

Phone (202) 521 9831
Fax (202) 521 9831
Email: BGIE@biafraland.com



Press Release

Re: UK joining the Nigerian government to wage war against the Niger Delta

July 14 2008

On the Issue of the recent public statement by Mr. Gordon Brown, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (UK), that his government has agreed to provide help and support with Security for the Nigerian government in the face of evident escalation of the ongoing conflict between Nigerian government forces and armed agents on one side and the hapless people of the Niger Delta on the other, a conflict involving the exploration, production, sale and delivery of Oil located in and belonging to the Niger Delta, the Biafra Government in Exile (BGIE) representing the Provisional Government of Biafra and the people of Biafra, and on their behalf, has authorized the release of this statement.

1. BGIE is ever mindful of the Energy crisis presently engulfing and threatening to choke the world, and the resultant social, political, market and economic pressure which world governments and administrations are under to bring alleviation, if not remedy.
2. We believe that Gordon Brown's plan and intent to provide help for the Nigerian government in the area of Security in the Niger Delta in order to protect the Oil business amounts to the British government needlessly joining the Nigerian government to escalate a relentless one-sided war waged against the people of the Niger Delta, an overwhelming majority of whom are neither armed nor a threat to Nigeria, to UK or to the world for that matter.
3. We believe that Gordon Brown's plan, if carried out, will in fact worsen the security situation in the region, and further jeopardize the Oil market, for the following reasons:
 - a. Any further military action in the Niger Delta by Nigeria and UK forces only succeeds in killing innocent people—people already disenfranchised, deprived, impoverished, persecuted, and destroyed, for no other reason than the Oil found on their land.
 - b. As a justifiable natural and desperate response, self defense in any form will most likely be resorted to by the few who are still able to, and human nature assures us that such subgroup will arise in every generation when faced with similar pernicious and endemic conditions as the Niger Delta has been subjected to for the last forty-one years.
 - c. There will be no quick military victory—if any—for Nigeria and Britain in the Niger Delta, but so long as the conflict simmers, there will be no secure flow of Oil from the region for the foreseeable future, for sure.

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- d. UK government will be inheriting the conflict in the Niger Delta, as the Nigerian government and forces will likely bow out of a hopeless situation, adding a different dimension to the war, and in any case, causing further jeopardy to Oil trade in the region.
 - e. Military action, no matter the scale, can only worsen the ecosphere damage already done in the Niger Delta as a direct result of insensitive and irresponsible Nigeria government's Oil policy in the region. Continuing military action also results in the postponement of any efforts to repair such damage, while at the same time diverting resources for such a reconstructive program. Military action will guarantee a continuation of the victimization and persecution of the Niger Delta and its people, a condition which will not augur well for peace and stability in the region.
4. We believe that the conflict or "Security problem" in the Niger Delta is caused not by so-called militants, nor so-labeled miscreants, criminals, oil thieves and other expediencies, but by the Nigerian State itself; its nature, and the very basic structural unsoundness of Nigeria. The Nigerian State is structurally defective and practically unworkable.

On a relevant historical note, we point out that the last time a British Prime Minister took his government to join Nigeria in war was in 1967. It was the Harold Smith government of Britain which eagerly and gladly joined Nigeria to wage a war of Genocide against Biafra (of which the Niger Delta is a part), and to force on Biafrans "unity of Nigeria," of which in fact the Nigerian putsch-leader then, Yakubu Gowon, who invited Britain to that war on his side, had already declared: "the basis for unity [of Nigeria] does not exist." While Britain and Nigeria have today managed to suppress the facts and memory of that genocide against Biafra from the world, it is on record that over two million non-combatant Biafrans—mostly children, pregnant women, elderly men and women—perished, not from bullets and shell-fragments, but from starvation resulting from the merciless total blockade of Biafra mounted and maintained by Britain and Nigeria. All that the Biafrans wanted was a secure place on their own ancestral land, having been driven out earlier from other parts of Nigeria in an unprovoked ferocious ethnic cleansing pogrom which makes Rwanda look like a mere dress rehearsal. While Nigeria and Britain declared "victory" over Biafra in 1970, every single ongoing ill of Nigeria today, including the present Niger Delta conflict, and the fact that Nigeria is now an irredeemable basket-case, a comatose state with no hope of recovery, can still be traced to how the issue of Biafra was mishandled by Britain and Nigeria. It was, and indeed continues to be a pyrrhic victory for Britain and for Nigeria.

It is in the light and context of this history, present realities and ancient truths surrounding Nigeria that we offer the way out of this quandary. The root-problem of Nigeria is not a problem of the peoples but a problem of structure and those who fiercely support such structure even when it is glaringly obvious that such a problematic structure is not working and will never work. The root-problem of Nigeria is the mindless insistence on "one-Nigeria"—unity of Nigeria: an oxymoron—the principle on which the British government Foreign Policy on Nigeria is rooted, and a policy which successive British governments are willing to impose on the peoples residing in the Nigeria geospace; a policy which recycled, inept and

corrupt Nigerian leaders are either unwittingly or willingly continuing to inflict on the peoples of Biafra and Nigeria.

There are different Nations residing in Nigeria. We believe that each Nation deserves its own sovereignty; we believe that each Nation's sovereignty and independence ought to be recognized by the world. Most importantly, we believe that aggregative socio-political and economic relationships freely and mutually entered into by these Nations will lay the foundation for stability and peace in the region—and that includes the Niger Delta.

In September 2007, the UN formalized the paradigm for Self Determination for the world's ethnic nations through the passage of the UN General Assembly Resolution A/61/295 which recognizes the rights of ethnic nations to determine their own political and economic status and destiny, even when it means political independence for such nations from their respective subtending States. Incidentally, the UK voted in favor of this resolution which passed overwhelmingly, while Nigeria abstained. We thus have a universal principle and vehicle which will guide and support the framework for the empowerment of Nations desiring to exercise their right to Self determination, and to do so in an orderly, stable and peaceful manner.

We believe that the Self Determination Principle ought to be initiated in Nigeria and supported by all Governments of the Free World, but especially the UK. Self Determination in Nigeria will result in Nations taking over from unworkable Nigeria the reins of their own governance and wellbeing, and the responsibilities thereof. Self Determination allows resource-owner-nations to be in control of their own resources and the management and disposition of such resources. We therefore present this formal solution:

- A. The World should accept that Self Determination applies to nations residing in Nigeria, and the United Nations and governments of the Free World need to press home the fact and implementation of Self determination, a UN Resolution, to the Nigerian government.
- B. A framework for Self Determination which delivers the goal of Self Determination and provides a guideline for a stable and non-violent process needs to be introduced immediately.
- C. Nations in Nigeria that desire to exercise their Self determination Rights should be encouraged, supported and empowered by governments of the Free World and the United Nations.

It is our belief that when the People of the Niger Delta exercise their right to Self Determination, the outcome of which will place them squarely in control of their future, the land, and resources found in their land, and when they actually see determined efforts on the part of the world to implement such Self determination rights, they will work out stable and peaceful relationships with the Oil principals and thus end the volatile security situation in the Niger Delta.

The last time the British government joined the Nigeria government in war against Biafra (which includes the Niger Delta), it earned Nigeria and Britain a pyrrhic victory, and earned the British leader and his foreign policy in Nigeria the name of a horrible disease: "Harold Wilson Disease," [Kwashiorkor] the heart-wrenching disease suffered by Biafran children resulting from the starvation inflicted and imposed on Biafrans by the British Government fighting for Nigeria during that war. Today, circumstances have once again placed the same Nigeria and the same British Foreign Policy in Nigeria, this time, under the British leadership of Mr. Gordon Brown, in a similar situation as in 1967. Today, as in 1967, the government of Nigeria has asked Gordon Brown's UK government to join it, Nigeria, in the war against the people of the Niger Delta. Sadly and tragically, Mr. Brown, like Mr. Wilson in 1967, has accepted...

The people of Biafra through BGIE believe that Mr. Brown is going down a predictably wrong and grave path, apparently uninformed and unimpressed by history. The people of Biafra appeal to the people of the UK to dissuade their Prime Minister and his Government from another calamitous mistake. The people of Biafra have also proposed a solution which the British government especially, but the world in general, should take very seriously, because it is right, logical, sensible and practicable; it is taken directly from the United Nations Resolution on Self Determination, an organization to which both Nigeria and the UK belong, and a Resolution which the UK voted in favor of, and Nigeria did not vote against. The implementation of this resolution in Nigeria will have the immediate effect of stabilizing the Oil business, returning stability to the region, as well as ensuring the survival of the Niger Delta, her people and their biosphere.

The people of Biafra stand in solidarity and in full support of our Niger Delta brethren and their desperate efforts to survive a needless blistering war waged on them and their environment incessantly by Nigeria, for no other reason than that Nigeria insists on taking their Oil by force and punishing them further by denying them any meaningful proceeds from the Oil. The only "crime" our brethren have committed is to be born Niger Deltans, and to have the natural endowment of Oil in their own land. We hold leaders of governments in Nigeria responsible for all destruction and damage done to life and environment in the region before, now and in the future.

Signed for the people of Biafra, the Provisional Government of Biafra and the Biafra Government in Exile



Emmanuel Enekwechi, PhD.
Prime Minister
eenekwechi@aol.com
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Oguchi Nkwocha, MD.
Secretary to the Government
oguchi@mbay.net
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Contact and Inquiries: Oguchi Nkwocha oguchi@mbay.net

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