



# CHRISTIAN SOCIAL MOVEMENT OF NIGERIA (CSMN)

*Motto: 'Thy Kingdom Come'*

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April 5, 2021

His Eminence,  
Rev. Olasupo Ayokunle  
President  
Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN)  
Abuja, Nigeria

Your Eminence,

## **RE: CHRISTIAN SOCIAL MOVEMENT OF NIGERIA - RC. NO: 14075**

At the meeting of the National Christian Elders Forum (NCEF) in Lagos on Wednesday March 31, 2021, an Elder presented a letter from CAN to her heads of Denominations signed by CAN Secretary General, Barrister Joseph Bode Daramola and dated March 23, 2021 addressed to All National Officers, Heads of Blocks, Head of Denominations, Zonal and State Chairmen. The said letter to the Church leaders is attached as **Annexure I**. In other words, this letter of Disclaimer was circulated throughout the Nigerian Church. In the said letter titled **Re: Christian Social Movement of Nigeria: A Disclaimer**, the Secretary accused the CSMN and its Chief Executive whom he did not name, of the following among others, misconduct. That CSMN, he wrote had approached Church leaders of the Christian Association of Nigeria with the acclaimed mission to unite Nigerian Churches to overcome jihadist attacks. It is germane to state that the CSMN gave birth to the National Christian Elders Forum (NCEF). This statement is correct and NCEF attaches herewith two essays on the subject of Christians and Jihadists in Nigeria published in the last three months.

- a. **Re-Inventing Nigeria for the Future** issued on January 7, 2021 with a letter to Chief Nnia Nwodo (**Annexure II**) the immediate past President of Ohanaeze Nd'igbo Worldwide.
- b. **Nigeria Needs the Best Voices to Stop Racism and Neo-Colonialism against Fellow Nigerians** March 30, 2021. (Copy attached as **Annexure III**)

In Annexure I paragraph 10 at page 6, we wrote:

### **"NIREC is not a Solution**

The Christian Social Movement of Nigeria (CSMN) believes that the Nigerian Inter-Religious Council (NIREC) was established for dialogue between Muslims and Christians in Nigeria where both the Sultan of Sokoto as the President of Jama'atu Nasril Islam (JNI) and Rev. Olasupo Ayokunle the President of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) meet quarterly to dialogue for the common good of all Nigerians. Unfortunately, contributions in NIREC have been reduced to a monologue in which the President of JNI holds sway. It has become very clear that NIREC is ineffective and Christians demand that

their voices be heard loud and clear. This view, Bishop Hassan Kukah has expressed on behalf of not only Christians but all who hold the opinion that Nigeria is a Democracy and not a Caliphate.”

There is therefore no better example of a monologue than the letter from the CAN General Secretary Barrister Daramola to Christians in Nigeria. (**Annexure I**) The letter is “divisive in the extreme” because it is stated in the Holy writ that when “two or three gathered in the name of Christ”, CAN in **Annexure I** is rejecting Christian Elders by the Disclaimer. Barrister Daramola went on to say “we write to inform you that the Christian Association of Nigeria largely dissociates itself from the group, the handler and their ill-defined objective. This statement alone shows with the greatest respect, that Barrister Daramola lied.

Below is part of the minutes of the inaugural meeting of the NCEF presided over by the then President of CAN, Pastor Oritsejafor on January 15, 2015. “**Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of the National Christian Elders Forum held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at the National Christian Centre, Abuja under the Chairmanship of his Eminence, the President of Christian Association of Nigeria, Pastor Ayo Oritsejafor at 2.00 pm.**

**Present:**

His Eminence, Pastor Ayo Oritsejafor	President, C.A.N.
His Grace, Archbishop Joseph Bagobiri	
His Grace, Archbishop Magnus Atilade	
Mr. Solomon Asemota, SAN	
Maj. Gen. Ishaku Ahmed Dikko (Rtd)	
Dr. (Mrs) Kate Okpareke FCA, mni	
Engr. Ken Emechebe	
Rev. Dr. Saleh Hussaini	
Amb. Moses Ihonde	
Rev. Dr. David Ogbueli	
Amb. Maurice B. Ekpang	
Elder Nathaniel C. U. Okoro	
Elder Prof. Joseph Otubu	
Rev. Dr. Musa Asake,	Gen. Sec. C.A.N.
Barrister J.B. Daramola,	Asst. Gen. Sec. C.A.N.
Mr. Mike Oyewole	
Pastor Bosun Emmanuel	Secretary

**Apology**

Elder Shyngle Wigwe”

The minutes of Meeting attached as (**Annexure V**) part of which reads:

“Distinguished Elders of Christendom in Nigeria,

I welcome you most warmly and with unquantifiable gratitude to this meeting. At this period of great crisis, both for the church and for the nation, it is very encouraging that we have elders that we can turn to, for **support**, for **guidance** and for **intervention**.

Distinguished Christian and national elders, we are in great distress, both as a church and as a country. I will neither mince words nor seek to underplay the gravity of the situation confronting us. On earth, the sights are devastating while the signals from heaven are ominous. As the people of God, we believe in the efficacy of prophecy and we do not trifle with genuine prophetic unction. We have reached the point in which it is clear, the elders must be called in. Thank you very much for heeding the invitation. [Emphasis supplied]

The past 5 to 6 years in Nigeria have been years of bloodshed and destruction for the Nigerian church. A section of the country has aligned itself with external aggressors to undermine both the territorial integrity and national ideology of the Nigerian state. While they kill, maim, and mutilate Christians in the northern parts of the country, they have succeeded in creating the deceptive impression that more Muslims are killed than Christians. Nothing could be farther from the truth. For example, a questionable report by *The Economist* in December 2014 states that “... *Many of the victims are Muslim, but the Islamists have also singled out Christians for murder or forced conversion to Islam.*” This is an example of the deliberate misinformation of the events unfolding in our nation. So far, it has been the Christian Association of Nigeria that has been speaking against the various acts of injustice and inhuman treatment meted out to Christians in the northern parts of the country. We have come to the point in which **we need the Elders of Christianity from across the geo-political divides in the nation to speak with one voice. It is crucial that Christian elders engage the Government, at every relevant level, as well as the security agencies, the judiciary and other religions in the nation in order to bring lasting and peaceful solution to the crisis on the ground.** [Emphasis supplied]

Already, Nigeria has the unenviable position of being the worst nation in the world in which Christians are persecuted. Of the 50 nations that officially persecute Christians globally, Nigeria alone carried over 60% of the casualties in 2012 and 2013. According to a recent World Watch List report, “Christian Deaths Double in 2014”.

Our brethren in the North are crying out. According to another report in the *Economist* in 2014, “*In September a horde of insurgents fell on the verdant villages of Kubi and Watu in Adamawa state and torched more than 500 houses. Arriving in the early morning they spent the day looting and killing among scorched corrugated-iron roofs. Bodies were dismembered and left for vultures. The security forces never turned up. “We have not seen them in a long time,” says a surviving villager, Ahmed Huda. “We are alone.”*”

The destruction and carnage must stop and it is clear, the Islamists are unable to stop themselves. We have been informed that once a Jihad is launched, it either succeeds or all the Jihadists are killed.

Today, Nigeria is being forced to fight a needless war. Our young men and women in the military are killed while national resources that should have been utilized for more meaningful development programs are now diverted to prosecute a needless conflict. An international report claims that it is “*the government’s decision to spend \$1 billion on new aircraft and training ...*”

In addition to the orgy of violence on the ground, we need to also look critically at a **deliberate manipulation of the Nigerian Constitution aimed at destroying liberal**

**democracy, the ideology upon which Nigeria was birthed and the sectional promotion of an alien ideology based on sectional religious belief.** If democratic ideology is truncated in Nigeria, then liberty and freedom of choice shall cease. This conspiracy must be resisted by everyone in favor of freedom and liberty in the nation.

Distinguished elders, as we approach an election period, Nigerians must demand of any incoming government the following solutions:

1. Truth and Reconciliation Commission
2. A new national Constitution based on the original national ideology which is democracy.
3. National Census that must henceforth reflect both religion and ethnicity
4. The implementation of the report of the National Conference
5. The restoration of history lessons in our schools so that succeeding generations will know where we are coming from.

As the letter of invitation points out, the National Christian Elders shall be summoned as situation demands to **speak out and resolve critical issues** that affect both the Christian faith and the nation. We hope that the National Christian Elders shall accept the challenge of this assignment as a service both to Jesus Christ and to the nation.

Thank you very much for your kind attention and I wish you success and fruitfulness on this assignment.” (**Annexure IV**) Above represents the mandate of CAN to NCEF. It is Islamism in the context of Nigeria’s politics of today to suggest that NCEF is a stranger to CAN. Why this lie? It is the duty of CAN to investigate.

As can be seen from the minutes of the first meeting in 2015 Barrister Bode Daramola was a foundation member of the NCEF, but was asked to step aside by the undersigned for various reasons that are embarrassing, the undersigned himself a Barrister of many years standing before being elevated to the Inner Bar in 1986.

In addition to the above facts, the unfortunate aspect of this narrative is that Barrister Daramola and the undersigned are practicing Catholics. Daramola’s conduct would seem to have fallen far short of Christian ethos and traditions more so, as CAN is the umbrella body for all Christians. He continued “one of the handlers, who particularly is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the group, has no reputation to undertake such task in the Christian community. He was at a time, the administrator of the CAN website which he used to mislead innocent Christians until the website was shut down and another one freshly constructed. He was also suspended and removed as the co-coordinator of CAN Trust Fund based on his doubtful activities”. Here again Barrister Daramola exhibited poor judgment. CSMN Chief Executive personal contract with CAN cannot be transferred to CSMN.

It is clear that these allegations have nothing to do with NCEF or CSMN, yet the disclaimer was directed against NCEF and not its Chief Executive who is in a better position to defend himself. We hope that CAN would go into the matter which portrays Barrister Daramola as a poor administrator for such a important Christian umbrella body in Nigeria.

Furthermore Barrister Daramola continued “The Christian Association of Nigeria categorically disassociates (sic) itself from this group. The group is illegal and not under CAN, although they have been using CAN set up to penetrate the Christian Community”. CAN can not dissociate itself from any Christian body set up to fill the gap it left unattended to while collaborating with the Islamists and the Caliphate.

We want to state categorically that CSMN is a legal entity and registered under the CAC with Registration No. RC 14075. Attached is a photocopy of its registration. Certificate dated 27<sup>th</sup> September 2001(Annexure VI) and the following Nigerian Christian personalities as first trustee except two are still members of the Board of Trustees “Prelate Emeritus (Dr.) S. C. Mbang; Cardinal John Onaiyekan; Bishop (Dr.) Mike Okonkwo; Archbishop Emeritus (Dr.) Patrick Ekpu; Archbishop (Dr.) Anthony Obinna; Solomon Asemota Esq., SAN; Rev. Jesse Adamu; Professor J.M. Otubu; Mrs. I. H. Ize-Iyamu.”

As a result of the above, CSMN demands a public apology from CAN circulated to all CAN’s structure already listed above and in two of Nigeria’s major newspapers, one in the North and another in the South. It is disheartening that some Christians out of ignorance and other personal interests have helped the Islamists in Nigeria to gain prominence since amalgamation and independence in 1960. There is need to encourage Christians to appreciate correctly the current Nigerian political situation. CAN cannot promote this by ignoring knowledge, age and experience of elders. CAN cannot ignore the Bible as a Christian organization.

The Islamists in Nigeria are in control of its political structures and has almost succeeded in replacing Democracy with Sharia with the help of some Christian organizations. The result is that the majority of Negro Nigerians have been reduced to minority and we are too afraid to say that we are the owners of Nigeria. When some do, CAN invariably disown them. As this is the period of Easter, CAN should take advantage of a ‘second chance’ to seek for forgiveness and reconciliation.

Majority of Christians in Nigeria are demanding that the problem in the world today can be reduced to the issue of **divided loyalty concept** i.e **can X be a good Muslim in a secular Nigeria?** While most Muslims say yes, a minority now in control of the federal government of Nigeria says No, and has resorted to jihad – stealth and conventional as a solution. All that CSMN and NCEF are asking for is that **our national wealth, largely from oil and gas should not be used for prosecuting a jihad against Christians and other innocent Nigerians.** This is what we demanded of our governors, elected representatives, and leadership in the Clergy etc. In other words, we should use what we have (oil and gas) to get peace for all Nigerians not to pay for hatred and jihad. **To remain silent is to acquiesce.** We of the CSMN and NCEF want reconciliation as was done in Northern Ireland, South Africa and other countries. To be able to achieve this, **Christians must first seek internal reconciliation through dialogue before embarking on National Reconciliation. CAN, should lead the way.**

The CSMN and NCEF are available to help and in line with what Pope Francis said: “the Prophet Joel says” Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions”(cf. Joel 3:1). When the old and the young come together, what happens? The old dream dreams, they dream of a future for the young. And the young can take those dreams and prophesy to make them reality.

When old and young come together, we preserve and pass on the gifts that God gives.”  
Our sons and daughters in the language of President Buhari have spoken and we hear  
them loud and clear. Now is the time for action.

Yours in Christ



**Solomon Asemota, SAN**  
Chairman, Board of Governing Council  
CSMN

**Annexure I** RE: Christian Social Movement of Nigeria: A Disclaimer

**Annexure II** Re-Inventing Nigeria for the Future, January 7, 2021

**Annexure III** Nigeria Needs the Best Voices to Stop Racism and Neo-Colonialism against  
Fellow Nigerians, March 30, 2021

**Annexure IV** Opening Remarks by the President of CAN, Pastor Ayo Oritsejafor, January  
15, 2015

**Annexure V** Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of the National Christian Elders Forum  
January 15, 2015

**Annexure VI** CSMN Certificate of Registration

**Registered Trustees: Rc. No 14075**

Prelate Emeritus (Dr.) S. C. Mbang; Cardinal John Onaiyekan; Bishop (Dr.) Mike Okonkwo; Archbishop Emeritus (Dr.) Patrick Ekpu;  
Archbishop (Dr.) Anthony Obinna; Solomon Asemota Esq., SAN; Rev. Jesse Adamu; Professor J.M. Otubu; Mrs. I. H. Ize-Iyamu