



CHRISTIAN SOCIAL MOVEMENT OF NIGERIA (CSMN)

Motto: 'Thy Kingdom Come'

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His Grace,
Most Rev. (Dr.) John Onaiyekan
The President,
Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN),
National Christian Centre,
Central District,
Abuja.

Your Grace,

THE URGENCY OF A CHRISTIAN AGENDA FOR NIGERIA

I attach herewith a document titled "What is wrong with the 1999 Constitution?" In the document I argued that the 1999 Constitution made by the military who practised internal colonialism is biased against Federalism, Human Rights, Democracy etc. I recommended a Truth and Reconciliation Commission as a precursor to a National Conference or a Constituent Assembly for the purpose of writing a new Constitution.

The recent Political/Religious Conflict in Jos has re-enforced my conviction that our Muslim brothers and sisters and some Christians who form the minority elite Nigerians, assisted by the security apparatus are not in favour of Democracy. I share the view of Punch Newspaper columnist, Adebolu Arowolo on December 1, 2008 who wrote:

"Where was the intelligence apparatus of the state when the Jos riot was planned and scores enlisted to cause the mayhem? Where was the nation's security apparatus when the masterminds of the violence were recruiting and importing hoodlums in hundreds from neighbouring states? What is the source of the sophisticated arms used by bandits and rioters?"

I may add that this crisis occurred only when we now have a Muslim Chief of Army Staff. No one should be deceived as the conflict between ANPP and PDP in Plateau State is an internal conflict between two parties sponsored by the Muslim North as **Christians have no functional political party in Nigeria**. I drew the conclusion that PDP and ANPP are sponsored by the Muslim North from my knowledge of how politics works in Nigeria and this is confirmed by the statement of the former Governor of Sokoto State, Attahiru Bafarawa who was reported to have said:

"Let me reveal a secret to you. In 1999, I was one of those that funded Obasanjo's election even though I was not and would not be a PDP man.

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

The APP then had gone into alliance with the Alliance for Democracy (AD) for the purpose of the presidential election. Our candidate was Chief Olu Falae. I examined Falae and Obasanjo and I felt given his experience, Obasanjo would be a better president. I mobilized my governor colleagues of APP extraction. We were nine at the time. I led them to see Obasanjo in late Chief Sunday Awoniyi's house. We told him why we were working for him. And made a request that if he became president, he should treat us the way he would treat the PDP governors and not to look at us as opposition. He gave me money to work for him but I refused. I told him I would deliver him and I did just that. Again the governors are all alive. Only Awoniyi is dead. Go ask them." [Sunday Sun, November 30, 2008 pg 13]

The reason for this action by Governor Bafarawa in my view is to ensure that the AD did not win the Presidential election. AD was regarded as a Southern Party and therefore Christian. Ordinarily, there should be no reason for a conflict between PDP and ANPP as both are sponsored by the Hausa/Fulani. In Plateau State however, the Christian indigenes belong to the PDP while the Muslim Hausa/Fulani belong to the ANPP. This makes politics in that State one of ethnicity and religion. We must not forget that the Hausa/Fulani have always claimed that they are the founders of Jos. The issue in Jos is political laced with religion and we need a political movement larger than a party that will promote and protect Christian and democratic ideals as we can no longer depend on the Muslims for political leadership that will promote the common good. The Social Teaching of the Church tells us that:

"if authority belongs to the order established by God, 'the choice of the political regime and the appointment of rulers are left to the free decision of the citizens'. The diversity of political regimes is morally acceptable, provided they serve the legitimate good of the communities that adopt them. Regimes whose nature is contrary to the natural law, to the public order and to the fundamental rights of persons cannot achieve the common good of the nations on which they have been imposed." Christians are being excluded from appointment of rulers in Nigeria.

The political regimes in Nigeria as presently constituted cannot achieve the common good because the Muslims control both the Federal Treasury and instruments of coercion, i.e. Armed Forces, Police, SSS etc. Nigeria's membership of OIC and twelve Sharia States suggests that Nigeria Muslims are in charge and are in tandem with other Muslim countries in the world. In other words, Nigeria is pursuing a worldwide Muslim agenda which includes rejection of the **Fundamental Human Rights and Democracy**. It must be appreciated that:

"The relationship between Islam and democracy is strongly debated among the people who identify with the Islamic resurgence in the late twentieth century and the beginning of the twenty-first. Some of these Islamists believe that "democracy" is a foreign concept that has been imposed by Westernized and secular reformers upon Muslim societies. They often argue that the concept of popular sovereignty denies the fundamental Islamic affirmation of the sovereignty of God and is, therefore, a form of idolatry. People holding these views are less likely to be the ones participating in elections. [Wikipedia.com]

Between 1980 and 2005 – 25 years we have had not less than 39 religious disturbances (see Elaigwu's Nigeria Yesterday and Today for Tomorrow Page 98) and in Plateau State between 2000 and 2005 we have had not less than 4 between Muslims and Christians. It is

not enough for Christian leaders to continue to say it is political and do nothing, relying on Government that is bent on Islamizing Nigeria by very negative and crude means.

Some mercenaries in Military and Police uniforms who shot at Christians in the recent Jos riots are from the Republics of Niger and Chad as alleged by the Plateau State Governor. In religious crisis in the North mercenaries' participation is common occurrence. Some of these mercenaries from Niger and Chad are Arabs and Hausa/Fulani. When we relate this to Qaddafi's dream of a United States of Africa with himself as leader, taking into consideration his recent ceremony as 'Africa's king of kings' and his views on Democracy, we as black Africans, Christians, and democrats must have cause to be worried. Qaddafi has been quoted as saying that: "Christianity is not a faith for people in Africa, Asia, Europe and the America. Other people who are not sons of Israel have nothing to do with that religion. It is a mistake that another religion exists alongside Islam. There is only one religion which is Islam after Mohammed." [CISA, Posted: Wednesday, April 04, 2007]

On Democracy Qaddafi said –

"The Arabic word 'democratiya', 'demo' means common people, 'kratiya' means chairs. This is what it means, the common people sitting on chairs. These political parties' representatives, it is not democracy. What exists now in the West is not democracy because you have representatives sitting on chairs; you don't have common people sitting on chairs. We in Libya, we give the common people the chance to sit on chairs. That's democracy. It's the people who sit on chairs. This is an idea from the West, you bring it from the Western world and try to slap it on countries ... But in Africa, we are one people, we are all poor, we are all illiterate, so how do we create this? And when we do, these tribes simply transform into parties."

Christians are no longer safe in their own country not just because of this occurrence, but because of the total dominance of the security agencies by Muslims especially the post of National Security Adviser which they retain almost on a permanent basis.

Nigerians are ambushed by Muslim political ideology, which over the years formed the Nigerian Agenda. Christians have aided this agenda in several ways because of their inability to appreciate the subtle methods of Islamization. Christian have no agenda of their own because of

- a. Lack of unity. This is as a result of resources expended in the political philosophy of "Divide and Rule".
- b. Fifth columnists in the mist of Christians who are to ensure that the Christians never unite and for this they are handsomely rewarded.
- c. The Sunni sect remain the dominant Muslim sect in Nigeria; other sects are either absorbed or eliminated while hundreds of Christian sects are registered every year by the Co-operate Affairs Commission in Abuja
- d. For over 50 years of Muslim control, African Traditional Religions, cults and some repugnant culture such as slavery and human sacrifice have either been re-introduced or promoted.
- e. A cult of personalities was established to promote Islamization with its guiding principles from Sokoto, Kaduna and Abuja.
- f. The phenomenon of traditional ruler in Ethnic Nationalities that hitherto were republican was promoted to create the very wide dichotomy of rulers and followers with village heads insisting on wearing crowns.

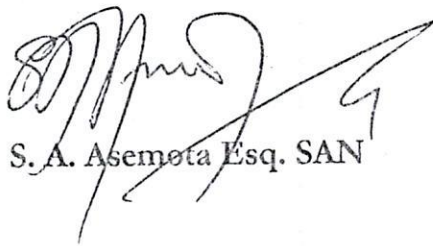
g. Because Islam sits more comfortably with some aspects of traditional religion than Christianity, Sokoto took full advantage of this similarity to promote them. The force of coercion (rigging) and treasure (corruption) swayed Nigerians to Islam especially when it means position, authority and material well-being.

It is time for us Christians to develop our own agenda because since Independence in 1960, Nigeria has been pursuing the Islamic Agenda. Muslim agenda has driven us to the brink and this may ultimately result in Nigeria becoming a failed state.

In the circumstance it is very difficult for one not to conclude that there is state organized conspiracy against Christians (Democracy) in Nigeria, where Christians i.e. Niger Delta region provide the bulk of the wealth of the nation and Christians are rewarded with murder and mayhem. This is un-Godly. It is for these reasons that I have prepared the attached document for the Consideration of the Christian Association of Nigeria [CAN]. We need a Christian Agenda for Nigeria to compete with the Muslim Agenda and provide a balance - an equilibrium.

Please be assured of my highest regards.

Yours sincerely in Christ



S. A. Asemota Esq. SAN