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A CALL TO NDI'IGBO FOR SELF-DEFENSE:

- By GLOBAL IGBO ALLIANCE (GIA)

Global Igbo Alliance Incorporated (GIA) is concerned about the continuous infiltration of large groups of Fulani Terrorists, and armed Herdsmen from Northern Nigeria and beyond into Igboland and the riverine neighbouring nations of the Niger Delta. The cruel activities of these armed and militarized groups include, but not limited to rape of women and female minors, wanton destruction of lives and property of citizens, forceful occupation of bushlands, forests, and farmlands across every State in the said regions.

In the light of the prevailing existential threat to the survival of the Igbo and the riverine neighbouring nations of the Niger Delta, GIA adds her voice calling on the Igbo and their neighbourly nations to defend themselves, their peoples and their lands, noting that self-defense is a fundamental individual and group human right enshrined in international law, and in the customary laws of the Igbo.

Research conducted by International Society for Civil Liberties & Rule of Law, Onitsha, Eastern Nigeria (Intersociety) published on 4 June 2020, reveal that across the entire South Eastern, and Niger Delta Regions of Nigeria, more than 400 communities and villages in Igboland have become forcefully occupied by Fulani Terrorists and armed Herdsmen. Further research published by Intersociety on 12 June 2020, assert that in the period January to June 2020 alone, Fulani Terrorists and armed Herdsmen murdered over 812 Christians across Igbo land and other Christian communities in Nigeria. Many of those murdered in their farms are indigenes of South Eastern and the riverine neighbouring nations. Additionally, the killings in the Christian Communities of Southern Kaduna is ongoing with very many who are women and children murdered in their sleeps.

We have observed with utter shock and dismay the silence and inaction of Nigeria security services, and all other legislative apparatus of the central government of Nigeria in containing the prospects of another calculated genocide against the peace-loving Igbo and other Christian community neighbours across Nigeria. GIA is horrified by the silence of the civilized world over the Killing of Igbos and other Christian communities across Nigeria.

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GIA is also equally horrified by the criminal silence of the current Governor of Kaduna State over the killings of Christians in Southern Kaduna as well as the wilful lack of cohesion among South East Governors, and the Governors of Delta, Rivers States and other States in Eastern Nigeria to establish and activate an appropriate self-defense-civil defense security network to protect lives, properties and lands of their citizens against Fulani Terrorists and armed Herdsmen.

The Nigerian Government under General Muhammadu Buhari continues to protect the Fulani terrorists by calling them “bandits”, instead of Terrorists, and their terrorism frequently unleashed against unarmed Christian communities are falsely regarded by Nigerian Government as “mere skirmish” or “clash” between armed bandits and unarmed indigenous Christian communities” who are killed either in their places of worship, in their farms, or in their homes sleeping at nights. The Nigerian Press and main stream media outlets which are controlled by Nigerian Government are censured and forbidden to describe the Fulani terror groups as Terrorists, while the International main stream media like CNN, BBC, Aljazeera, and Fox News turned their blind eyes.

Therefore, GIA calls on every Igbo kindred, village, Town and Clan to organise “Umunna by Umunna” and activate the Igbo customary age-grade defense system in each of their “Umunna”, investigate the identity and origins of all suspicious individuals residing in their respective communities, search all bushland, forests and farms in their respective communities and expel all or anyone or any group residing, hiding in, or occupying such bushlands, forests or farms.

The “Umunna” should act simultaneously, and in collaboration with others across the entire Igboland and other Christian communities, to enforce the Igbo customary law prohibiting open grazing in Igboland by evicting all animals, including herds of cattle and their herders that are found roaming free in any bushland, forest, farm or road in their communities throughout Igboland.

GIA acknowledges that historically, Igbo customary Defense Age-grades have always been in Igbo custom and traditions. It is lawful and legitimate in customary law and was successfully deployed to defend Igboland and its communities against slave raiders and the British colonial Army before and during British rule; and does not require the consent, legislative approval, or funding by any Igbo Governor to become active.

GIA appeals to all Igbo worldwide and, in the homeland to strengthen and support these customary civil defense forces with all necessary logistics required to rid Igboland permanently of the Fulani Terrorists and armed Herdsmen menace.

GIA recommends and supports all Igbo in Diaspora to continue to organise and come together ‘Umunna by Umunna’, “kindred by kindred”, “village by village”, “town by town”, “community by community” and “clan by clan”, and to keep raising funds in their respective “Umunna” and to immediately activate and or strengthen their customary civil defense age-grades into action.

The Igbo survived slave raiders, the British colonist, and Nigeria's genocidal war where over 5 million Christian Igbo Biafrans – including women and children were murdered. The Igbo shall also survive Fulani Terrorism and armed Herdsmen invasion.

Australasia, Canada, United States, United Kingdom, Europe, Asia, Africa
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SIGNED

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