



INTERFAITH DIALOGUE FORUM FOR PEACE

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PRESS RELEASE ON THE INTEREST OF PEACE AND TRANQUILITY IN NIGERIA

The Interfaith Dialogue Forum for Peace (IDPF) a faith-based organization made up of Christian 100 and Muslim religious leaders across Nigeria is urging ethnic and religious groups and leaders across the country to desist from inflammatory utterances that could incite fellow Nigerians based on the insecurity concerns and other agitations across the country.


While expressing our concern as to the safety of all Nigerians, we need to imbibe and act responsibly by conducting ourselves in the best interest of peace in and around the country.

1. We commend the efforts of the President in appointing new service chiefs towards reinforcing and reinvigorating the security state of the country, while charging them to be committed in discharging their responsibilities to forestall all the security challenges in the country.
2. We call on all Nigerians to be vigilant in the defense of their democratic norms in order to secure the peace that we all are yearning for as a country blessed with all forms of opportunities which, if well-harnessed, will bring about the desired positive change, progress and development to all parts of the country, as well as project our nation as a force to be reckoned with among the Comity of Nations.
3. Our religious institutions should continue to play a vital role in facilitating justice and peace in the country by ensuring they continue to educate their membership and follower-ship properly so as to be patriotic. As people of faith, it is our religious duty to make the difference by promoting peace messages and encouraging the culture of faith in action. It is painful that some religious leaders who are respected are now harbingers of peace, making provocative statements that can fuel religious and ethnic crisis.
4. We are calling on all Nigerians not to be used as political tools of violence against each other or as agents of hate through misuse of various social media platforms. Let us use social media platforms to preach peace and influence positive change for meaningful development, and we should all endeavor to be part of the new efforts that will engender peace in our homes and communities.

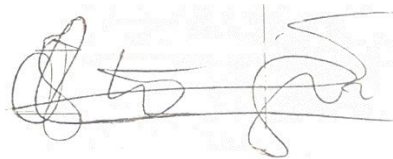
5. We appeal to both the mainstream and social media platform to be discreet and patriotic in their reportage of various events and happenings in the country in order not to fuel the embers of violence.
6. We as Nigerians will triumph, if we play active roles and part in promoting and sustaining the ideals that enhance nation building, by being the change we want to see in our dear nation; acting and working together to promote sustainable peace.
7. In addressing various challenges that are confronting us as a nation, government should endeavor to have an inclusive approach that will carry all the stakeholders along in the efforts to reduce tensions, conflicts, insecurity and blind perception across the country. The new waves of ethnic tensions and division that are breeding across the country as a result of the recurring clashes between herdsmen and farmers should be a matter pf concerned to all patriotic Nigerians.
8. The unwholesome security situation in the country was initially domesticated to the North East and to some extent, the North Central; it is worrisome that it is steadily moving to the other part of the country. However, we should not throw the baby with the bath water as some provocative, stereotypical, profiling and criminalization of a tribe or religious group is unethical to peace building. We have said it several times that there are criminals in all religious and tribal groups in Nigeria. As religious and community leaders, we should be. able to undertake internal cleansing of all by checking any negative coloration in the society.
9. The Federal State and Local Government authorities must have a synergy on how to handle of banditry, kidnapping and other forms of criminality with the security agencies working in tandems with the local vigilantes to flush out the criminals hibernating all over.
10. We are appealing to the governments at all levels to support various groups that are working to promote dialogue where opinions differ in the best interest of the security and lives of all the citizens in the country. We are also calling on Nigerians to support efforts of the governments to promote lasting peace in all regions of the country.
11. Finally, as critical stakeholders in the interfaith and intercultural engagements in the country, we appreciate the efforts of all citizens towards observing the covid-19 protocol, as the second wave of the pandemic; we call on Nigerians to be proactive, positive and committed by taking responsibility to reducing impact and spread of the virus.

Thank you for listening.

Long Live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!



Bishop Sunday Onuoha
Co-Chairman



Alhaji Kunle Sanni Ishaq
Co-Chairman