



ETCHE R'ORIOKPOR R'EKPAN

SECRETARIAT

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OCTOBER 14, 2022

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF STATE SERVICES

Dear Director General,

COMPLAINT AGAINST THE UNRELENTING AND SUSTAINED ACTIONS OF CRIMINAL ASSAULT ON THE LIFE AND PROPERTY OF CHIEF VICTOR OTOMIEWO, BRAZEN ACTS OF TERRORISM, HARD DRUGS TRAFFICKING/PEDDLING, DAY LIGHT KIDNAPPING, MURDER ETC. IN EKPAN COMMUNITY: A PASSIONATE PLEA FOR URGENT INTERVENTION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE SERVICES (DSS), IN THE FACE OF COMPROMISE AND POLITICALLY MOTIVATED INACTION BY THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE (COP)

(In the matter of criminal assault, wanton destruction, murder, kidnapping and abduction of perceived opposition members of the APC ruling party, in Uvwie Local Government in Delta State.)

The undersigned are citizens of Nigeria from Ekpan Community in Uvwie Local Government Area of Delta State. Ekpan Community plays host to the NNPC Petroleum Refinery popularly known as Warri Refining and Petrochemicals Company Ltd. (WRPC). We are accomplished professionals in our various fields of endeavour. We are also Community leaders in Ekpan Community and Uvwie Kingdom as a whole. One of us, Chief Victor Otomiewo is a lawyer of forty years standing. He is a former Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Delta State. He is a former Secretary General of the Urhobo Progress Union, the Apex socio-cultural organization of the entire Urhobo Nation Worldwide. He was the President General of the Uvwie General Improvement Union, the apex Socio-cultural Organization of the Uvwie Kingdom for many years. He is a National Executive Committee member of the Nigerian Bar Association. He is the long-serving President of the Essi College Old Students Association, Worldwide. The other undersigned are all accomplished individuals in their own rights. The common thread bringing the undersigned and many other persons like them together is the fact that they are perceived to be in opposition to the PDP which is the ruling Party in Uvwie Local Government and Delta State. Because of this, for the past seven and a half years of the Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa-led PDP government in Delta State, we have been subjected

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High Chief V.E Otomiewo
(Unuevworo r'OrioKpo)

High Chief G. Ematshemegbe
(Ujiavwwe r'OrioKpo)

High Chief R. Ejifoma
(Esiera r'OrioKpo)

an unrelenting and sustained campaign of criminal assault, destruction of properties, multiple murders, kidnapping and intimidation.

This horrendously naked display of raw political power by the PDP led administration, both at the State level in general and the Uvwie Local Government Area in particular has resulted in several persons being murdered, kidnapped, rendered homeless and/or forced to escape/relocate out of their native indigenous homes and go into exile out of the Ekpan Community, Uvwie Local Government Area. The perpetrators of these activities which we shall narrate in fuller details are well-known to us. They include :

- I. Late Lawrence Ngozi Ijie
- II. Uvwie Ejeneye
- III. Daniel Ighedo
- IV. Joseph Uvwaye Alias Uruere
- V. Ramson Onoyake
- VI. Efe Best
- VII. Victory Nanakparo
- VIII. Patricia Usolo
- IX. Gabriel Ariuruje
- X. Caris Ariuruje
- XI. Onajite Awinoron
- XII. Newyear Iffie
- XIII. Newton Onaodowan
- XIV. Matthew Emewakeme
- XV. Isaac Etigbenaye (Oshegudu)
- XVI. Shedrach Ighedo
- XVII. Joseph Ukwesa

Most of these persons are political appointees or elected officials of the PDP led Government in Uvwie Local Government and Delta State. We have caused several complaints to be made about their activities to all the formations of the Nigerian Police from the Divisional Police Station up to the Office of the Commissioner of Police, Delta State Police Command all to no avail. They have turned deaf ears to our cries and have refused to arrest or even investigate the numerous complaints we have made to them over the years about the specific acts of

iminality perpetrated by these persons with the ostensible authority of the Delta State government. The siege still continues till date. It is sustained, unrelenting, strategically executed and clearly directed at eliminating all perceived or real opposition to the ruling party in Delta State as soon as possible.

Ekpan Community is a very big Community with a population of about 500,000 persons. It plays host to the Warri Refinery and many other Oil companies and Oil service companies. The Community is very strategic in the political and social calculations in Delta State as a whole. The undersigned, who are all community leaders, as well as many other indigenes of Ekpan who look up to them for leadership number in their thousands. One of us, Chief Victor Otomiewo was the Unueworo (Traditional Duke in charge) of Ekpan Community. Later, because of its large size, Ekpan Community was split into four Areas and Chief Victor Otomiewo still heads one of these sections of the Community. Together with some of the other undersigned as well as other traditional leaders in the Community, we ensure that framework that keeps the Community peaceful is kept intact. If Ekpan Community is completely destabilized as desired by these hoodlums, the unfortunate level of criminality that would overwhelm the Community and spill into the neighbouring Communities, including Warri and Effurun is better imagined than experienced.

SUMMARY OF THE SUSTAINED, RELENTLESS ACTS OF INTIMIDATION, ASSAULT, DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTIES, MURDER ETC PERPETRATED BY THESE HOODLUMS ON THE ALTAR OF POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY

- i. In line with the Traditional administration of Ekpan Community, the four Unueworo's administrating Ekpan constituted an "Ekpan Development Committee" (EDC), under the Chairmanship of Mr. Steven Akemu. In conjunction with other members of his committee, he superintends the administration and development of the Community and reports to the Traditional Council. Their tenure was fixed by the Traditional Council which appointed them. This arrangement worked to ensure peace and security in the Ekpan Community until their tenure was prematurely and unlawfully truncated by Mr. Ramson Onoyake (Chairman, Uvwie Local Government) on 1st October 2021. Mr. Ramson Onoyake then set up an amorphous and patently illegal committee, which he styled Caretaker/Interim Committee to usurp all the traditional functions hitherto conferred on the EDC by Uvwie customs. It is instructive to note that the interim Committee setup by Mr. Ramson Onoyake has no point of reference, no terminal date, no tenure and no program or policy to guide them in the administration which they have usurped.

Sadly, the so-called caretaker committee is made up of known hoodlums, serial killers, wanted fugitives, crude oil bunkerers (thieves), kidnappers and Armed Robbers, many of whom have before now been declared wanted by the police. In short, they are a collection of hoodlums who are dreaded in Ekpan Community.

They have now been "rehabilitated" with the help of the political high command in Delta State. They are now ruling Ekpan Community because it is politically expedient.

We advised Mr. Steven Akemu to peacefully challenge the unlawful dissolution of the Community Association led by him by filing a civil suit in court at the High Court, Effurun, Delta State in Suit No: HCE/39/2021: CHIEF (DR.) ROBERT WARRI EJIFOMA & 3 ORS VS. MR. RAMSON ONOYAKE & 32 ORS. In spite of the pending Suit, and in utter disrespect for the judicial process, the said Caretaker committee have descended on the Ekpan community and using the power and backing of the Uvwie Local Government Chairman and other officials, they have unleashed a reign of terror in the community by raping, gunrunning, kidnapping, illegal oil bunkering, spread of drug peddling and drug addiction. As it stands today, Ekpan Community has been turned into gangster's haven where anything goes in the name of Chairman of the Uvwie Local Government. Any person who is perceived to be an opposition member is a target. As a result many persons have quietly fled the Community in fear of their lives.

The Traditional institution of Ekpan has been rendered comatose as all Chiefs are under serious threat of elimination and intimidation by the local government authority Chaired by Ramson Onoyake and the Chief Perpetuators being; Daniel Ighedo, Joseph Uvwaye, Victory Nanakparo, Shedrack Ighedo, Uvwie Ejeneye, Joseph Ukwesa, Gabriel Ariuruje, Matthew Emewakeme, Newton Onoadowan, Isaac Etigbenaye, Caris Ariuruje, Efe Best who is a cousin of Chief V.E. Otomiewo. The female front of the cabal are Sarah Ariuruje, Patricia Usolo and Onajite Awinoron.

They are being aided, covered and protected by the Delta State Commissioner of Police, Ali Muhammed Aliyu and the Ekpan Police Station DPO. In addition, the Vice Chairman of Uvwie Local Government, Mr. Daniel Ighedo illegally brought and keeps a group of Soldiers in Uduomovwori Quarters, Ekpan Community. The soldiers are maintained partly by forced levies which are forcibly collected from the poor traders, artisans and citizens of Ekpan Community by the Vice Chairman and his boys. The Vice Chairman, with the help of the said soldiers also runs a protection ring for criminals in Ekpan Community. All the drug peddlers, kidnappers and illegal oil bunkerers in Ekpan Community pay protection money to the Vice Chairman and the said soldiers who enforce his directives. The tent used by the Soldiers in the Community is now an alternative Government in Ekpan Community. Every week, People are Kidnapped and taken to the Soldiers' tent and they are never released until ransom are paid through the Soldiers. One of the undersigned was kidnapped and taken to the soldiers on Sunday, 10th of October, 2022.

ii. Since the advent of the Okowa Administration, the home and Office premises of Chief Victor Otomiewo have been attacked fifteen times, without a response from the State Police Command and/or the Local Government authorities or the State, in spite of numerous petitions, some of which are enclosed herein as Annexure A. The police commissioner in Asaba and every DPO that has been posted to Uvwie Local Government have turned deaf ears to his cry for justice and/or arrest of the criminals responsible, most of whom are government appointees. They were all listed above.

Under the current administration of Ramson Onoyake as the Chairman of Uvwie Local Government, the premises of one of the undersigned, Chief Victor Otomiewo has been attacked eight (8) times in this year alone. On September 17th, 2021 Honorable Ramson Onoyake went on Radio and Television to announce that Chief Otomiewo has been banned from entering the Okugbe Primary School, Ekpan for the purpose of football training and other exercises. He followed up this ban when on Sunday, the 19th of September 2021 with five (5) tricycles, known as keke, he forcefully and illegally abducted Chief Otomiewo from the School field, forced him into his Car with seven well armed thugs and took him to the Ekpan Police Station. Fortunately, the then DPO received calls from all over Nigeria, advising him on the caliber of the person that had been abducted to his office, he saw reasons, released him on bail, and advised Ramson Onoyake to go and apologize, but up until today, the apology has not been rendered.

On July 11th 2022, he invaded the Okugbe Primary School Premises, with thugs and bricklayers and illegally sealed up the pedestrian gate with concrete preventing access to Chief Otomiewo and/or any person that seeks to play football on that pitch. It should be noted that the said pedestrian entrance was approved by Professor Muoboghare, the Commissioner Primary and Basic Secondary Education at the relevant time. To further enforce his dictatorial tendency, he caused the fence of the Football field to be laced with Barb wires making Okugbe Primary School Football field, the only training ground in the whole world encircled with sharp barb wire, making therefore football and other sport programs impossible.

As a result of this constant and incessant torment, harassment and intimidation of Chief Otomiewo and his family without any protection from any Police formation in Delta State, he was forced to seek remediation elsewhere and resorted to the Inspector General's office. A copy of the complaint to the IGP is attached as Annexure B.

We know for a fact that the reason for the incessant torment, harassment and threat to life of the undersigned was because they choose the path of truth. They

have challenged the illegal actions of the government officials and appointees by not only suing the Local Government Chairman for dissolving the duly elected EDC and set up an illegal caretaker committee. One of us, Chief Otomiewo also stood as counsel to defend Mr. Steven Akemu who was framed up on trumped up charges of Kidnapping and armed robbery. This charge was contrary to the result of the investigation and advice of the Commissioner of Police, Delta State and the DPO, Ekpan. The Commissioner of Police, Delta State admitted to the hearing of some members of the Uvwie Community, that he was pressurized by the Delta State Security Council to rope in Steven Akemu in one of the meetings, the Uvwie Community had with him in Asaba.

Precisely, on 19th of September, 2022, the hoodlums mentioned above, gathered foreign elements, hired thugs led by one Kabiru from Ugborikoko and invaded the premises of Chief Victor Otomiewo in the guise of protesting an insult against the Office of the Council Chairman. When they could not gain entrance to the house, they went to the Palace of the Ovie of Uvwie, who they knew was on vacation to drop the useless protest letter, purportedly emanating from the Legislative arm of the Local Government Council.

One of these assailants, Joseph Uwaye has been implicated in very many felonious criminal actions in Ekpan Community since 1999. Between 1999 and 2002, he killed in broad day light, a young male relative of Chief Otomiewo. He was arrested but the matter could not go to court because of the Politicians in Asaba, who killed the case and made sure he is not charged to court till date.

The said Joseph Uwaye was recently fingered in the killing of one John Mogidi. The statements are with the police. The Attorney General of Delta State has also mentioned his name as one of the persons perpetrating violence in Uvwie. Even the present Local Government Chairman, Ramson Onoyake also wrote a petition against him complaining against his criminal activities. Copies of all court statements on oath and court processes against the said Joseph Uwaye are attached and marked as Annexure C

Rather sadly, it is this same character that the Delta State Government have appointed as Special Assistant the Governor because it was politically expedient.

- iii. On Sunday, 9th October 2022, Joseph Uwaye, Victory Nanakparo, Daniel Ighedo, Uvwie Ejeneye, Shedrack Ighedo, Efe Best and many others invaded the premises of Chief V.E. Otomiewo. A meeting of Chiefs to be presided over by Chief Otomiewo was billed to hold at his residence on that day. The hoodlums assaulted his wife, destroyed his properties, assaulted and injured the Administrative Secretary of the

Etche, Chief Peter Akemu and so many Chiefs. They severely beat up Chief Eyimofe Akemu, thereafter, they dragged him along the road, forced him into a tricycle and took him to the Army tent stationed in the premises of Daniel Ighedo. They did not go to the Police Station which was close by. In fact at the Place where he was kept, Daniel Ighedo gave an instruction that he should be killed. His brother, Shedrack Ighedo was there and even posted the picture of the kidnapping on Social media.

Reliable information source has revealed that one DSP Collins Achemarary of RRS (Rapid Response Squad) led, supervised and coordinated the illegal, criminal and unjustified invasion of the premises of Chief Otomiewo on that day. He actively participated in the daylight robbery of phones, jewelries, money and kidnapping of a Chief in the premises.

- iv. On the said day, when Chief Otomiewo caused the matter to be reported at the Police Station, some of the assailants including Joseph Uwaye, Shedrack Ighedo and others told Chief Otomiewo to his face that all his troubles are because they heard that he had joined the APC. They questioned what effrontery he had to join the APC in a PDP State like Delta. They told him that he may not be alive to witness the enthronement of an APC government in Delta State. This clear threat was issued in the presence of Police Officers at the Ekpan Police Station. Rather than arrest the said persons, the police protected them and escorted them out of the station and let them go free.
- v. Chief Eyimofe Akemu who was kidnapped from Chief Otomiewo's Compound on 9th October, 2022 had before now made more than 8 (eight) formal complaints to the police in Delta State about the criminal activities of the above-listed persons as it concerned him. Copies of the said complaints with relevant photographs are hereby attached as Annexure D. The complaints were never investigated nor the perpetrators arrested.
- vi. Mr. Steven Akemu, who was unlawfully removed as chairman of EDC and who has challenged his unlawful removal in court has made more than 8 (eight) formal complaints to the police about the criminal activities of the above-listed persons as it concerned him. Copies of the said complaints with relevant photographs are hereby attached as Annexure E. The complaints were never investigated nor the perpetrators arrested. Rather, Steven Akemu has been charged to court on trumped up charges for having the effrontery to challenge his removal as chairman EDC.

We have witnesses who heard the Commissioner of Police, Delta State, Mr. Ari Mohammed give order to his men that Mr. Steven Akemu should be shot on sight and his corpse should be disposed off, never to be found.

- vii. Mrs. Victoria Uttah, an indigene of Ekpan and a perceived opposition person has made several formal complaints of her harassment and intimidation to the police about the criminal activities of the above-listed persons as it concerns her. Copies of the said complaints with relevant photographs are hereby attached as Annexure F. The complaints were never investigated nor the perpetrators arrested. On one occasion, she was stripped naked and dragged along the streets in Ekpan. None of the perpetrators was arrested in spite of the formal complaint of Mrs Victoria Uttah. This is in spite of an order of the court mandating the Commissioner of Police, Delta State to investigate the complaints of Mrs. Victoria Uttah. The CTC of the said order are annexed as Annexure G.

Emboldened by the non-action of the Police, one of the perpetrators, Mr. Uvwie Ajeneye has unlawfully closed the shop of Mrs. Victoria Uttah by dumping two lorry loads of refuse on the shop. Her business is effectively shut down as a result and the Police have refused to do anything about it.

We firmly believe that all these actions of these desperate politicians and their minions are preparatory towards causing mayhem before, during and after the forthcoming general elections in 2023. It seems that the PDP high command in Delta State, having recognized that Ekpan with its high population and sophisticated metropolitan voters is strategic to determination of the outcome of the elections in 2023 and have embarked on this desperate campaign to murder, intimidate and silence any person they perceive is not 100% loyal to their political interest and tendency. We have completely lost confidence in the Delta State Police Command as well as the Ekpan DPO. Similarly, we have lost confidence in the Army Commander, Effurun. By their actions and inactions, they seem to be under the payroll of Daniel Ighedo and the Local Government Chairman, In our opinion, that is the only reason they are all providing the shield for these criminal elements.

Consequently, it is clear that we do not have any hope of any protection from the Police in the circumstances we have outlined above. A substantial portion of the population of Ekpan Community in Uvwie Local Government of Delta State may be killed and eliminated in the run-up to the 2023 elections. The Ekpan Community is now under the grip of a group of desperadoes who would stop at nothing in order to achieve that objective. The security of Ekpan Community has been compromised and the situation is deteriorating every day.

May we therefore request that you use your good office to cause an investigation to be carried out into the security implications of the activities of these hoodlums complained against and cause any person who is found culpable of any offence to be dealt with in accordance with the law.

SIGNED:



17/10/22

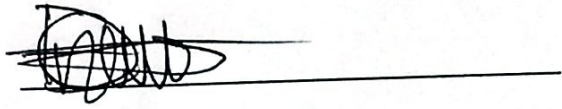
CHIEF VICTOR E. OTOMIEWO
(UNUEVWORO OF ORIOKPOR, EKPAN)



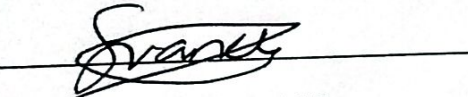
MR. STEVEN AKEMU
(EKPAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN)



CHIEF EYIMOFE AKEMU
Secretary of Oriokpor



MR. DAVID ERUMURA
Admin. Sec. of Oriokpor



HEAD OF MEN FOLKS



HEAD OF WOMEN FOLKS



ELDER OF ORIOKPOR (OLDEST MAN)