

TOO LATE FOR RESTRUCTURING; ODUDUWA REPUBLIC NOW!

WHO WE ARE: Ancient History:

Present day Yorubaland had been inhabited since the 4th century BC by people who were not originally called Yoruba, but 'Aku' or 'Anago'. Archeological findings, radiocarbon dating of excavated artifacts and traditional Yoruba oral history, as encapsulated in *Ifa*, our revered body of knowledge and divination, confirm the existence of people in this region for several millennia.

Yoruba spiritual heritage maintains that the Yoruba ethnic groups are a unique people who were originally created at Ile-Ife.

Many legends and myths surround the origin of Ife, and of the Yoruba. While Ife's place in antiquity cannot be disputed, one thing agreeable to all Yoruba descendants is that they all left from Ife, after the *Great Dispersal (Akinjogbin and Ayandele in 'Yorubaland Up To 1800' – pg 124 of Obaro Ikime's Groundwork of Nigerian History)*, in succeeding waves, over a period of time.

The self-propagated mythology of the origin of the Yoruba, who refer to themselves as "*Omo O'odua*" (Children of Oduduwa), revolves around the mythical figure of *Oduduwa* or *O'odua*. The meaning of the name may be translated as "the spiritual one ("O/Ohun") who created the knowledge ("odu") of character ("iwa")."

Oduduwa thereafter had sons, daughters and grandchildren who went on, after the *Great Dispersal* which commenced from '*Ita Ijero*' in *Ile-Ife*, to found their own kingdoms and empires, namely *Ila-Orangun, Owu, Ketu, Sabe, Popo, Oyo* and *Benin*.

Oranmiyan, Oduduwa's last born, was one of his father's principal ministers and overseer of the nascent *Edo* empire after *Oduduwa* granted the plea of the *Edo* people for his governance. When *Oranmiyan* decided to go back to *Ile Ife* after a period of service in *Benin*, he left behind a child named *Eweka* that he had, in the interim, with an indigenous princess. The young boy went on to become the first legitimate ruler of the second *Edo* dynasty (After the *Ogiso* period) that has ruled what is now *Benin* from that day to this. Wikipedia 2.2.10

Oranmiyan later found the *Oyo Empire* (one of the most powerful of Africa's medieval states prior to its collapse in the 19th century). It stretched at its zenith, from the western banks of the river Niger to the Eastern banks of the river Volta, and down to the Atlantic ocean, defining the rough extent of present day Yorubaland, **and the subject of our current agitation for the establishment of a customary law government of the indigenous people of the ODUDUWA NATION to be used as a vehicle to assert our right to self-determination as a people.**

GEOGRAPHY:

The entirety of Yorubaland lies almost completely within the trough encompassed by the River Niger, to the north and east, River Volta to the west and the long stretch of the Atlantic Ocean to the south. This geographic space more or less roughly describes the totality of the area occupied by the people over the extent of their known history.

From the west at the borders of Togo, it stretches through Benin Republic to the east, at Warri in the east in the creeks of the Niger delta (between Longitude 2°30'E and 6°30'E). The upward sweep commences from the Atlantic ocean coastline up to the immediate westerly bend of the Niger river, (below the confluence) (between latitude 6°N and 9°N).

This is properly described in this classic quotation from Bishop Ajayi Crowther's letter to Thomas J. Hutchinson, Esq., Her *Brittanic* Majesty's Consul for the Bight of Biafra and the Island of Fernando Po, in an appendix to a book entitled "Impressions of Western Africa" Longmans, Green & Co., 1858 ...

"This part of the country of which Lagos is the sea port, is generally known as the Yoruba country, extending from the Bight to within two or three days journey (as at 1858) to the banks of the Niger. This country comprises many tribes governed by their own chiefs and having their own laws. At one time they were all tributaries to one Sovereign, the King of Yoruba (under Alafin Ojigi, pg174) 7 including Benin on the east, and Dahomey on the west, but are now independent."

No other description better captures the ambient area of the subject of our current agitation for the establishment of a customary law government of the indigenous people of the ODUDUWA NATION to be used as a vehicle to assert our right to self-determination as a people.

THE PEOPLE:

The Yoruba are the largest homogeneous people in Africa. They inhabit a continuous, unbroken territory, speak the same language, share the same culture, custom and world believe. They are urban dwellers who have built many towns, cities, kingdoms and an empire before the advent of the Europeans. (*Akinjogbin and Ayandele in 'Yorubaland Up To 1800' – pg 121 of Obaro Ikime's 'Groundwork of Nigerian History'*)

They can broadly be classified or grouped according to the dialectal group to which they belong, the subgroup of migration from Ife, or the kingdom/empire to whom they owed allegiance.

The dispersal of the various prince-headed groups from Ile-Ife to found new kingdoms of their own (situated in late 8th Century or early 9th century), following their father, Oduduwa's instruction, was in a series of pre-planned, organized emigrations that historians have placed in four groups, namely, those who went North-westwards – Owu, Sabe, Oyo, etc.; those who went South-westwards - Egba, Egbado, Ketu, Awori, etc., those who went Eastwards – Ekiti, Owo, Ondo, Benin, Akoko, etc., and those who stayed in the neighborhood like the Ijesha. These migrations resulted in the foundations of many new kingdoms. All the most important kingdoms (26, according to some accounts) have rulers who were either sons or grandsons of Oduduwa.

But, taken broadly, the following had been the natural grouping of the people, surviving from their earliest history, to the present:

1. **IFE:** Ode-Omu, ipetumodu, Ikire, Apomu, Oke-igbo, etc;
2. **OYO:** Ibarapa (Saki, Okehom Iganna, iseyin, Iwawin, Eruwa, Iberekodo, etc); Ekun Osi, Igboho, Ikoyi, Kiisi, Ilorin, Irawo, Iwere, Ogbomoso, Oy, Igbeti, etc.); Igbonna (Omuanran, Isanlu, Odo-Ere, etc.); Okun (Mopa, Kabba, Egbe, Bunu, etc); Ibolo (Ede, Iresa, Ofa, Oyan, Okuku, Ikirun, Osogbo, Ido, Ilobu, Ejigbo, Ede, etc.); Epo (Idode, Masifa, Ife Odan, Fiditi, Iwo, Ilori, Ago-Oja (New Oyo), Awe, Owu (Orile), Ibadan, Ijaye)
3. **EGBA:** Agbeyin (Ake, Ijeun, Kemta, Iporo, Ibara, Owu); Oke-Ona (Oko, Ikereku, Ikija, Idomapa, Odo, Podo); Agura (Agura, Ilugun, Ibadan (later Epo Oya), Ifaye, Ika, Ojo, Ilawo), Ifo, Owode, etc.
4. **IJEBU: Ode, Imupa; Ososa; Igbo; Ago-Iwoye; Imusin** (Ilare, Lewunren, Sagun, Itamarun, Ikatun, Ikasi, Igbagee, Iru, Isosu, Abigi, Esure, Igbo, Imomo, Eruwon, Ikija, etc.); Okun -Owa (Okun-Owa, Ilokun, Odolowu, Odoebolu, Odo-Neta, Odo-Kisi, Odo-Neji, Itun-Ado); Odo-Ogbolu (Odo-Ogboluti, Ifiyan, Idena, Odo-Aganmayan, Odogbon, Odo-Aloro, Odoyangan, Ikoa, Oriwo, Ipebi, Idofe, Odomuja); Ayepe (Afo, Aba, Idobiri, Ilakan, Odolubianwa, Adigolu, Owu, Eyinwa, Ijesa) . *(Source: History of the Ijebu by Moses Botu Okubote, pg 5)*
5. **REMO:** Ofin, Ilisan, Isara, Imesi, Ikenne, Iperu, Ikorodu, Odo-Raselu, Odo Pinyenwa, Odo-Ile, Olu Imota, Ode Lemo, Olu Ogere, Akaka, Emuren, Irolu, Isiwo, Idarika. *(Source: History of the Ijebu by Moses Botu Okubote, pg 24)*
6. **ONDO:** Ore, Odigbo, Atijere, Ile-Oluji, Idanre, Owena, Obadore, Ajebandele, Oboto, Agbabu, Atantan, Igunshin, **Odo-Owo**, Bagbe, Unorun, Koseu, Tekuile, Laje, Wasimi, Kajola, Lamudifa, Fagbo, Foiku, Asewele, Okegun, Baguwa, Ulu-Uha, Bolorunduro, etc
7. **IKALE:** Okitipupa, Irele, Ilutuntun, Igbotako, Ayede, Ode-Aye, etc.
8. **ILAJE:** Igbokoda, Igbo, Mahintedo, Araromi, Ori-oke, Zion Pepe, etc. Atijere;
9. **EKITI:** Ado, Ikere, Ilawe, Aramoko, Iyin, Ido, Oke-Imesi, Iworoko, Efon-Alaye, Ijero, Ikogosi, Ijan, Ise, Emure, Omuo, etc;
10. **AKOKO:** Ikare, Oke-Agbe, Arigidi, Oka, Isua, Ikeran, etc. Major Akoko settlements include **Ikare**, Oka, Oba, Ikun, Arigidi, Ogbagi, Okeagbe, Ikaram, Ibaram, Iyani, Akungba, Erusu, Ajowa, Akunu, Gedegede, Isua, Auga, Ikakumo, Supare, Epinmi, Ipe, Ifira, Ise, Iboropa, Irun, Afin, Igashi, Sosan, Ipesi, Etioro, Ayegunle and Oyin;
11. **IJESA:** Ilesa, Osu, Iperindo, Erin, ijebu-Ijesa, Ibokun, 'Osogbo', etc;

12. **AWORI:** Ota, Sango, Ojo, Agbara, Iba, Alaba, Iseri-Olofin, Idimu, Igbesa, Iru, Agege, Ikeja, Mushin, etc;
13. **EGBADO:** Ayetoro, Ado-Odo, Owode, Idi-Iroko, Ilaro, etc.;
14. **IFE:** Ile-Ife, Modakeke, Ipetumodu, Gbongan, Ode-Omu, Ikire, Apomu, Oke-Igbo, etc;
15. **KETU:** Orile-Ketu, Sakete, Pobe, Paraku, Dase, Niki, etc.;
16. **SABE:**
17. **POPO:**
18. **OWU:** Orile-Owu, Owu-Ijebu, Most others are scattered. The bulk are domiciled in Abeokuta.

HOW WE CAME TO BE WHERE WE ARE

The Fulani Jihads Against Yoruba Land.

By 1824 the *Fulani* invasion of Yoruba land had started in earnest, after usurping power from Afonja , the *Are-Ona-Kakanfo*, in Ilorin. Like a *blieskreig* they attacked, sacked the city of Oyo and set it in flames. For the next 35 years the war was fought at various fronts culminating in the final humiliating defeat of the *Fulani* at Inisa near *Osogbo* by the *Ibadan* and allied forces in 1835. But while the war lasted many souls were lost. Many cities, towns and villages were burnt, many atrocities were committed by the *Fulani* against the *Yoruba* under the disguise of spreading *Islam*. With the *Quran* in one hand, the sword on the other, many lives were either destroyed or irreversibly traumatized. Of particular mention in this regard is the siege of Ofa where captives were lined up and slaughtered, with blood dripping into a bowl, like lambs to the slaughter!

The Coming of the Europeans

The coming of the Europeans (English) to present day Nigeria and their surreptitious (sometimes intimidating) relationships with the peoples, was through Yorubaland in the nineteenth century.

However, history records that the Yoruba were never engaged in war with the British (except at Ilorin, under the Fulani usurpers, and at Ijebuland over rights of way for traders). So we were never conquered. But went voluntarily to sign treaties of cooperation with the British.

There was never an agreement, written or verbal, committing each of the various national, sub national groups, empires or kingdoms to be an integral part of a later to be formed Nigerian nation, state or country. What were signed and agreed with the British were treaties of protection and co-operation (*see appendixes*) (sometimes forced or coaxed out of the hapless natives by intimidation or force of arms). Their sovereignties were never signed away. The treaty with the Ibadan semi-autonomous state, 15th August 1893, is an example.

1. THE TREATY OF PEACE, FRIENDSHIP AND COMMERCE IN YORUBALAND.

Treaty of peace, friendship and commerce between the ALAFIN of Oyo, the Balogun , the Maye , the Abese , the Agbakin, the Otun Bale of Ibadan ; the Owa the Ilesa , the Owore of Otun ,the Ajero of Ijero , the Olojudo of Ido, the Seriki of Ilesa,the Owoni of Ife, the Obalufe , the Obajiwo ,the Obaloran , the Ajaruwa ,the Arode, the Arisanre ,the Balogun of Ife; the Ogunsuwa of Modakeke, the Balogun and Otun of Modakeke ,the Awujale of Ijebu and the Balogun of Ijebu .

Whereas the Kings, Chiefs , Baloguns and Chiefs above enumerated, Parties to this Treaty , and to the conditions and articles to agreement hereinafter set forth, profess to be earnestly desirous to put a stop to the devastating war which has for years been waged in their own and adjoining countries , and to put a stop to the devastating war which has for years been waged in their own and adjoining countries , and to secure the blessings of lasting peace to themselves and their peoples, and have appealed by their envoys and messengers duly accredited to His Excellency the Governor of the Colony of Lagos as representing Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen to mediate between them, and to arbitrate , and determine such terms and conditions as shall secure a just and honorable peace to the contending parties

Treaty, dated 4th day of June 1886.

2. THE TREATY OF OYO

Treaty between Adeyemi, Alafin of Oyo and head of Yoruba-land, and her majesty, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland

Signed and sealed at Oyo this 23rd day of July ,1888.

3. IJEBU TREATY

SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT WITH THE COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION AFTER DEFEAT

The aforesaid agreement was signed in Lagos on the 21st January, 1892 between Gilbert Thomas carter Esq. C.M.G, governor and commander in charge of the colony of Lagos on behalf of Queen Victoria, titular head of Great Britain and Ireland, the Indian Prime Minister, her Lieutenants and heirs on one hand, and the Awujale and the Ijebu elders on behalf of themselves and the generations after them.

Signed in Lagos on the 21st January, 1892

4. OYO

TREATY OF PEACE AND RIGHT OF WAY TO TRADE

Treaty made at Oyo in the Yoruba country , this 3rd day of February, in the year 1893, between his Excellency Gilbert Thomas Carter ,Esq ., Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George , Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Lagos , For and on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ire land , Empress of India ,etc., Her Heirs and Successors on the one Part, and the undersigned King ALAFIN of Oyo and Head of Yoruba- Land , for and on behalf of his Heirs and Successors , on the other part.

This 3rd day of February, in the year 1893,

5. IBADAN

TREATY OF ADMINISTRATION AND SUZEREINTY OVER SOME TOWNS

AGREEMENT made at Ibadan this 15th day of August , 1893 ,between His Excellency George Chardin Denton, Esq., Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Acting –Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of Lagos ,For and on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India her Heirs and successors of the one part , and the undersigned Bale and Authorities of Ibadan for and on behalf of their heirs and of the people of Ibadan of the other part.

Done at Ibadan this fifteenth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and ninety three (1893).

6. IBADAN (RAILWAY)

TREATY ON RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION

This Indenture, made the 14th day December 1900 , between His Excellency Sir George Chardin Denton ,Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George Lieutenant –Governor of the Colony of Lagos ,for and on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland ,Empress of India , her heirs and successors of the one part, and the Basorun and Authorities of Ibadan for and on

Made the 14th day December 1900

7. **EGBA KINGDOM**

TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COMMERCE

Between His Excellency Gilbert Thomas Carter, Esq., Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor and Commander –in – Chief of the Colony of Lagos, for and on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, Empress of India, etc., her heirs and successors on the one part, and the undersigned king (Alake) and Authorities of Abeokuta representing the Egba Kingdom, for and on behalf of their heirs and successors on the other part.

Made at Abeokuta in the Egba country this 18th (eighteenth) day of January in the year 1893.

8. **EGBA (BOUNDARIES)**

TREATY ON EGBA – LAGOS BRITISH PROTECTORATE BOUNDARIES

Agreement entered into at Abeokuta between His Excellency Sir Gilbert Thomas Carter, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Micheal and Saint George, Governor and Commander –in-chief of the Colony of Lagos, and the King and Authorities of the Egba nation.

Whereas it is expedient to define the boundaries between the Egba country and the territories bordering on, or under the British Protectorate of Lagos , we ,the undersigned Governor of Lagos and the king and Authorities of the Egba Nation residing at Abeokuta, agree as follows:

Signed at Abeokuta this fifth day of January, 1894.

9. **ABEOKUTA (RAILWAY)**

TREATY ON RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION

Agreement made this 21st day February, 1899, between His Excellence George Chardin Denton, Esq., Companion of the most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Acting- Governor and Commander –in-chief of the Colony of Lagos for and on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland , Empress of India , her heirs and successors, of the one part and the Alake and Authorities of the Egba nation for and on behalf of themselves , their heirs and successors , and the Egba nation of the other part.

Signed at Abeokuta this fifth day of January, 1894.

10. LAGOS TREATY OF ANTI-SLAVERY ACTS

The Treaty Between Great Britain and Lagos, 1 January 1852 was an agreement between the United Kingdom (represented by Commodore [Henry William Bruce](#), Commander of the British Navy's West Africa Station and [John Beecroft](#), British Consul in the Bights of Benin and Biafra) and Oba [Akitoye](#), the newly installed Oba of Lagos on British anti-slavery measures and naval bombardment of Lagos in 1851

Lagos, 1 January 1852

11. LAGOS TREATY OF CESSION

TREATY OF CESSION OF LAGOS ISLAND AND PORTS TO THE BRITISH

Treaty between Norman B. Bedingfeld, Commander of Her Majesty's ship Prometheus, and Senior Officer of the Bights Division, and William McCoskry, Esquire, Her Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul, on the part of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, and Docemo, King of Lagos, on the part of himself and Chiefs.

Signed at Lagos, August 6, 1861

Following threats from Kosoko and the French who were positioned at Wydah, a decision was made by Lord [Palmerston](#) (British Prime Minister) who noted "the expediency of losing no time in assuming the formal Protectorate of Lagos". King Dosunmu resisted the terms of the treaty but under the threat to unleash violence on Lagos by Commander Bedingfield, Dosunmu relented and signed the treaty. This was a damning treaty, signed under duress, intimidation and coercion. It was totally unfair and unjust as it purported to cede to the British , forever:

"give, transfer, and by these presents grant and confirm unto the Queen of Great Britain, her heirs, and successors forever, the port and Island of Lagos with all the rights, profits, territories, and appurtenances whatsoever thereunto belonging, and as well the profits and revenue as the direct, full, and absolute dominion and sovereignty of the said port, island, and premises, with all royalties thereof, freely, fully and entirely and absolutely".

12. IJESA

ENACTMENT FOR THE ABOLITION OF HUMAN SACRIFICES IN THE IJESA COUNTRIES

Whereas the practice of immolating human beings is cruel, barbarous, futile and unjust in the eyes of all civilized nations and right-minded persons; and whereas the said practice has fallen into disuse amongst the ijesas, and the present time appears opportune for its total abolition in the ijesa country; and whereas the ijesas are under a deep and lasting obligation to his excellency the governor of lagos for having established

peace between them and their late enemies, the ibadans, and for having thereby secured the independence of the ijesa country;...

Given under our hands and seals this 29th day of September, 1886.

13. EKITI

ENACTMENT FOR THE ABOLITION OF HUMAN SACRIFICE IN THE EKITI COUNTRIES

Whereas the practice of immolation human beings is cruel ,barbarous , futile and unjust in the eyes of all civilized nation s and right –minded persons , and where as the said practice has fallen into disuse in the Ekiti countries ,and present time appears opportune for its total abolition in those countries ; and whereas the Ekitis are under a deep and lasting obligation to His Excellency of the Governor of Lagos for having established peace between them and their enemies the Ibadans ,and for having thereby secured the independence of the said Ekiti countries;...

Given under our hands and seals this 29th day of September, 1886.

14. IFE

ABOLITION OF THE CUSTOM OF HUMAN SACRIFICE BY THE COUNCIL OF IFE

Whereas the practice of immolating human beings is cruel,barbarous , futile and unjust; and whereas His Excellency the Governor of Lagos ,to whom the ife nation is greatly indebted for having magnanimously mediated between them and their enemies ,will be pleased to hear that the ife nation has abolished the said detestable practice; and whereas the council of ife has already undertaken through its representatives at kiriji to abolish the said abominable practice;...

15. KINGDOM OF ILARO

PROCLAMATION OF 13TH AUGUST, 1891

*By his Excellency George Chardin –Denton, Esq., C.M.G., Acting Governor of Lagos, etc.
GEORGE C. DENTON, (L.S.), Acting Governor.*

Whereas her majesty has been advised that it is for the interests of the people of the colony and protectorate of Lagos, and also of the people of the kingdom of Ilaro that the said kingdom

should be transferred to the government of her majesty and that her majesty should assume the protectorate thereof.

13TH AUGUST, 1891

AT NO TIME DID WE AGREE WITH THE BRITISH, BASED ON THE TREATIES SIGNED, TO COMMIT US TO AN ALIEN UNION MADE UP OF INCOMPATIBLE BEDFELLOWS, AND TO BE LATER CHRISTENED NIGERIA!

Therefore, we are not Nigerians, were never Nigerians by origin, custom and culture, and from henceforth, do not seek to continue as Nigerians.

The influence of the British Empire on the territories which now form Nigeria began with prohibition of slave trade to British subjects in 1807. The resulting collapse of African slave trade led to the decline and eventual collapse of the Oyo Empire. British influence in the Niger area increased gradually over the 19th century, but Britain did not effectively occupy the area until 1885, and then under competition from France and Germany. The colonial period proper in Nigeria lasted from 1900 to 1960. In 1900, the Niger Coast Protectorate and some territories of the Royal Niger Company were united to form the Southern Nigeria Protectorate, while other Royal Niger Company territories became the Northern Nigeria Protectorate. In 1914, the Northern and Southern Nigeria Protectorates were unified into the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria while maintaining considerable regional autonomy among the three major regions. Progressive constitutions after World War II provided for increasing representation and electoral government by Nigerians. In October 1, 1960, Nigeria gained independence.

The Yorubas never wanted to be part of Nigeria.

Notes on Why the Obstacle to Yoruba Development is Nigeria

1. Although some states like Kano have a vibrant trade-based economy (and the Kannywood' local entertainment sector is booming), economic output in the Northern states is mostly agrarian. On the other hand, the services sector – banks, telecoms, hospitality, trade – are mostly concentrated in the South especially Yorubaland,. Of the 21 commercial banks in the country, only one is owned by and headquartered in the North.

2. *Just under 60 years ago, the homeland was a region known as the "Yoruba Western Region", with coordinated policies uniformity across its provinces, but it has since been partitioned by the Nigeria government into Lagos, Oyo, Ogun, Osun, Ondo, Ekiti, parts of Kwara, Kogi, Edo and Delta States without political, social or economic integration among its people.*

3. *60 years ago, there was free education in the whole of the Yoruba Western Region, now divided into approximately ten (10) states. Today and since 1966, education has ceased to be free in all the Yoruba states. The standard has gone down well below what it was then.*

4. *60 years ago, there was free and qualitative health care for all Yoruba citizens and residents throughout the Yoruba Western Region. Today and since 1966, there has been nothing like free healthcare anymore. Ordinary mosquitoes kill more people in Yorubaland than cancer and HIV combined.*

5. *60 years ago, Yoruba who travelled abroad for further studies or for a visit always returned home to contribute to the development of their region. However, since 1966, the best of the Yoruba brains in all fields of human endeavors have relocated and remained abroad to work and most of them are doing mundane jobs in the United States and Europe.*

6. Even in the South, Lagos and to a lesser extent, the four major oil-producing states, account for the bulk of economic output in Nigeria. Lagos, where most banks, financial institutions, telecoms firms, oil companies and other private sector organizations are headquartered could be Africa's fifth largest economy, if it were a separate country. As an outlier, it is the only self-sufficient state out of 36, able to generate over 50% of its revenues from internal sources far in excess of its monthly allocations from the center.

7. The fiscal conditions of the colonial administration in the Northern administration were dire and it survived only with the help of the imperial grant-in-aid. By 1912, the imperial hand out to the North was approximately £314,500.00. The imperial hand out to the Northern Province through the expenditure of the British taxpayers' money in financing a colonial territory was a contradiction of the British Colonial policy, enunciated sixty [60] years before by Earl Grey. This protocol stipulated that —*the surest test for the soundness of measures for improvement at an uncivilized people is that they should be self-supporting*]. [Grey, Earl. 2010. The north and the rest of the country are really slowing us down.

8. *Alhaji Ahmadu Bello* strongly objected to the 1953 motion for independence moved by Mr. Anthony Enahoro. Alhaji Ahmadu Bello moved a counter motion, arguing that granting Nigeria Self-rule then would amount to being re-colonized, this time, by the Southerners. *Alhaji Ahmadu Bello* was very bitter when he was quoted as claiming that the mistake of 1914 has now come to the fore and called for the reversal of the amalgamation [Aderemi, 2013, p.15]. In one of his essays published in 1948 *Alhaji Tafawa Balewa* wrote —*our concept of Nigeria is, East for the Easterners, North for the Northerners and West for the Westerners and Nigeria for all of us.* [Aderemi, 2013, p. 175].

So, let us keep things that way as all nationalities in Nigeria are now agitating!

9. The country Nigeria is founded and sustained on fraud: In 1973, *Niger Republic* had a land mass of 1,266,700 sq km, with a population of over 5m people and Chad with 1,259,200 sq km had over 4m people. So, how could the North of Nigeria that shares boundaries with Niger and Chad, with a [claimed] territorial expanse of 786,754 sq km have over 75 million people?

[Fayemi, 2013, p.27]. This reeks of politics of territorial expanse and not a demonstration of a commitment to the Nigerian nation.

Affirmations:

We affirm that the Yoruba can hold their own in any field of endeavor and in any multinational gathering of peoples as an equal among nations.

To date the list of records set and broken by the Yoruba is endless; the Yoruba built the first television station in Africa; the first stadium; the largest industrial conglomerate of companies (Oodua Investments), the tallest building in Africa (The Cocoa House, Ibadan) (1965), the largest single estate of houses (Jakande Estates), Africa's first black Nobel laureate (Wole Soyinka), Africa's first 25 storey structure, the first lawyer in Nigeria (Sapara William –1879), the richest man of African descent (2009) (Dehinde Fernandez) etc, etc.

We affirm that the escape of the Yoruba from underdevelopment is easier to achieve independent of other nations in the Nigeria polity. Of a fact, the Yoruba have always viewed these forced bedmates as albatrosses on our neck without whom we would have fared better.

We affirm that the Yoruba seek to move at a pace contiguous with the phenomena of their history, for to do otherwise is tantamount to self-immolation and group suicide, and an everlasting sentence of the unborn generation to perpetual underdevelopment and the backwaters of world history.

We seek to empirically determine the kinetics of a free Yoruba country, to assess where the boundless energy and highly resourceful intelligence of the citizenry would have catapulted them otherwise, if we are on our own.

We affirm that the eventual, ultimate and irreversible disintegration of Nigeria will be a blessing for the progress of Yorubaland and its citizens.

TOO LATE FOR RESTRUCTURING; ODUDUWA REPUBLIC NOW! OUR DECLARATIONS.

In the light of the foregoing, and in response to the occurrences in Nigeria of the past few months, including but not limited to the releases, utterances and actions of:

- a) Certain groups representing the *Igbo nation* in Nigeria, *IPOB (The Indigenous People of Biafra)*, *MASSOB (Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra)* among others, to the effect that they desire to leave Nigeria and cease to be called Nigerians; and
- b) Certain groups representing the (AREWA) people of Northern Nigeria, to the effect that the Igbo people should vacate the territory of Northern Nigeria before October 1st, 2017,

The Yoruba Liberation Command (YLC), the core of the authentic representatives and defenders of the values, rights and demands of the Yoruba Indigenous people, now makes the following declarations:

1. The entirety of Yorubaland lies almost completely within the trough encompassed by the River Niger, to the north and east, River Volta to the west and the long stretch of the Atlantic Ocean to the south. This geographic space more or less roughly describes the totality of the area occupied by Yoruba people over the extent of our known history. From the west at the borders of Togo, it stretches through Benin Republic to the east, at Warri in the east in the creeks of the Niger delta (between Longitude 2°30'E and 6°30'E). The upward sweep commences from the Atlantic ocean coastline up to the immediate westerly bend of the Niger river, (below the confluence) (between latitude 6°N and 9°N).
2. Article 3 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples recognizes Indigenous peoples' right to self-determination, which includes the right ***"to freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development."***
Article 4 affirms Indigenous peoples' right ***"to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs,"*** and
Article 5 protects their right ***"to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions."***
Article 26 states that ***"Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired,"*** and it directs States to give legal recognition to these territories.

Therefore we totally agree with the desire and demand of the Igbo to vacate Nigeria. It is within their inalienable rights to so demand. We shall do all within our powers to

assist and encourage the Igbo to achieve this, and remove themselves from all parts of Yorubaland, except as in such cases or under conditions as may be so agreed between both parties, in so far as it does not in any manner affect the safety, properties and rights of Yoruba people, anywhere they may be in the presently subsisting Nigeria country.

In the same vein, we agree that the Arewa groups are within their rights to demand that all Igbo should vacate their territories within the time frame given. This expulsion order however, has automatically grouped every other southerner, or non-muslim northerner, together in the order, because there is no verifiable way to differentiate between the Igbo and the Yoruba, between the Igbo and the Ibibio, Efik, Urhobo, Itshekiri, Ijaw or the Northern Yoruba of Kwara and Kogi. The Igbo do not carry a mark on their heads identifying them as such. Therefore this is an expulsion order to all Southerners and people of the Middle Belt by the core north of North West and North East. By this order the North has automatically asked its people resident in the south to vacate the south of Nigeria and go back home to the North.

Southerners, and especially Yoruba people resident in any part of the North are advised and encouraged to come back home, to Yorubaland where they are guaranteed one hundred percent protection of their lives, limbs and properties. It is important you do not fall victim to the wholesale slaughters, massacres and all the horrendously horrible things the Hausa-Fulani are known for, if we are to judge by past experience. In the confines of Yorubaland they dare not try any of these crimes because they know we have the antidote to their madness.

3. We declare that the time to revisit, repudiate, repeal and destroy the amalgamation proclamation of 1914, bringing the peoples of Nigeria together by fiat has come. It is NOW!

To buttress this assertion, we examine the following quotations:

a) "The British needed the Railway from the North to the Coast in the interest of British business. Amalgamation of the South (not of the people) became of crucial importance to British business interest. Fredrick Lugard said the North and the South should be amalgamated".

"What is critical and important are the reasons Lugard gave in his dispatches. They are as follows: He said the North is poor and they have no resources to run the protectorate of the North. That they have no access to the sea; that the South has resources and have educated people"

"When the amalgamation took effect, the British government sealed off the South

- from the North. And between 1914 and 1960, that's a period of 46 years, the British allowed minimum contact between the North and South because it was not in the British interest that the North be allowed to be polluted by the educated South."
- *Chief Richard Akinjide, former Attorney General and Minister of Justice*
- b) "Since 1914, the British Government has been trying to make Nigeria into one country, but the Nigerian people themselves are historically different in their backgrounds, in their religious beliefs and customs and do not show themselves any signs of willingness to unite ... Nigerian unity is only a British invention"
- *Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, Late former Nigerian Prime Minister.*
- c) "I entered Parliament on December 12, 1959. When the North formed a political party, the northern leaders called it Northern Peoples Congress (NPC). They didn't call it Nigeria Peoples Congress. That was in accordance with the dictum and policies of Lugard. When Aminu Kano formed his own party, it was called Northern Elements Progressive Union (NEPU) not Nigerian Progressive Union. Northern Peoples Congress was, back then, and still exists in one form or another in 2011- not without a Northern-prefix! Sometimes, you still read Northern Elements Political Forum! Indeed, these elements have not changed! 50 years later, we are still being confronted with a Northern Consensus Candidate. Yar'Adua's purported message to Nigerians from his death bed via Hausa BBC in Hausa language! Northern this, Northern that! Not Nigerian!
- *Chief Richard Akinjide, former Attorney General and Minister of Justice*
- d) "Nigeria is a very complex country. Our problems did not start yesterday. It started about 1894. Lord Lugard came here about 1894 and many people did not know that Major Lugard was not originally employed by the British government. He was employed by companies. He was first employed by East Indian Company, by the Royal East African Company and then by the Royal Niger Company. It was from the Royal Niger Company that he transferred to the British government. The interest of the Europeans in Africa and indeed in Nigeria was economic and it's still economic. They have no permanent friends and no permanent interests. Neither their interest nor their friends are permanent. Nigeria was created as a British sphere of interests for business. In 1898, Lugard formed the West African Frontier Force initially with 2,000 soldiers and that was the beginning of our problems. About 90 percent of them were from the North mainly from the middle belt. And his dispatches to London between that time and January 1914 was extremely interesting. Lugard came here for a purpose and that purpose was British interest".
- *Chief Richard Akinjide, former Attorney General and Minister of Justice.*

- e) "The new nation called Nigeria should be an estate of our great grandfather Othman Dan Fodio. We must ruthlessly prevent a change of power. We use the minorities in the north as willing tools and the south as a conquered territory and never allow them to rule over us and never allow them to have control over their future."
- *Alh. Ahmadu Bello, the Premier of the Northern Region*
- *Parrot Newspaper October 12, 1960. Eleven days after Nigeria got her political independence on October 1, 1960*

Now, there are important revelations about the vision of Sir Ahmadu Bello, as captured in the above, and which vision his people have executed with great effectiveness for the past 5 decades:

1. Nigeria is an estate of their great grandfather Othman Dan Fodio, and so anyone who does not descend from their forebear is a tenant. The vision is to maintain a tenancy status for all non-Dan Fodians dwelling within the geographical boundaries of Nigeria.
2. To prevent ruthlessly any change of order that wrestles power from the Dan Fodians.
3. To use and manipulate all "minorities" of the "north" as the slaves of the Dan Fodians.
4. To control the resources of tenants (non-Dan Fodians) in their estate (Nigeria).
5. To resist any form of rule over the Dan Fodians.
6. To never allow non-Dan Fodians to have control over their future.

The pursuit of, and the brutal enforcement of this vision have contributed greatly to the many crises Nigeria has faced for close to sixty years. The connivance of western powers such as Britain and the USA at different stages of our history for the sake of protecting their interest has been a recurring scenario that has just refused to go away. Now is the time to end this subjugation that has been as insidious as it has been hidden from the majority of peoples of the world, including some Nigerians.

We declare that Yoruba will never be slaves in their own fatherland. We repudiate this amalgamation document now and declare that we cannot and will not continue to be a part of an iniquitous Nigeria.

4. History records that the Yoruba were never engaged at war with the British (except at Ilorin, under the Fulani usurpers, and at Ijebuland over rights of way for traders). So we

were never conquered. But agreed voluntarily to sign treaties of cooperation with the British.

There was never an agreement, written or verbal, committing each of the various national, sub national groups, empires or kingdoms to be an integral part of a later to be formed Nigerian nation, state or country. What were signed and agreed with the British were treaties of protection (as in the treaties with Lagos (1852) and Ilaro(1891) and co-operation (as in the treaties with Ijesha(1891), Oyo1886 and 1888) and Ekiti(1891) (*see appendixes*) (sometimes forced or coaxed out of the hapless natives by intimidation or force of arms). Their sovereignties were never signed away (except that of the Lagos Island and ports (1861). The treaty with the Ibadan semi-autonomous state, 15th August 1893, is an example.

We hereby declare null and void the act of the mercenary Lord Lugard, who had no preliminary instruction nor our mandate as a people to bring us into an undesired union, ab-initio contrived for the interests other than that of our forefathers, the native owners of the entire territory of Yorubaland, as described in (1). Therefore we trash into the dustbin of history any action, purported to have brought us to the undesirable, unprofitable and retrogressive union called Nigeria.

5. **We declare to our people the viability, vibrancy and virility of a separate Yoruba Nation. As such, we are encouraged to boldly and vigorously pursue the initiative of an Oduduwa Republic.**

Yorubaland has a landmass of approximately 80,000 square kilometers and a current [2013] estimated population of 40 million people - more populous than:

o 20 countries in Europe - Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland;

o 41 countries in Africa - Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe;

o 17 countries in the Americas - Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El-Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela;

o 13 countries in the Middle East - Bahrain, Brunei, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirate and Yemen; and

o 6 countries of Asia - Cambodia, North Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Taiwan [*Yoruba Agenda, 2012*];

Yorubaland has a unique geography, competencies and resources and is positioned as the hub of development and growth of Nigeria into the 22nd Century The foremost

urban civilization in Black Africa. Our first town, Ile-Ife, was built in the early 4th Century BC, during the European —Dark Ages when most of Europe had no towns, with a level of urbanization more advanced than that of the countries of Europe in the same period;

Yorubaland is one of the fastest growing economic blocs in Nigeria and the world, with a combined GDP of \$69.1 billion, constituting 25.3% of the national GDP (2012 estimates) and a GDP per capita of \$11,341 – a gross Regional output that grew the most in 2012 Yorubaland has over 60% of Nigeria's industrial capacity and approximately 60% of the country's banking assets plus 67% of its insurance assets...;

Two of Nigeria's most important deep seaports – Lagos Port, Complex, Apapa & Tin Can Island - handling over 100 million tonnes of goods p.a. valued at an estimated \$2b in 2012, alongside its profitable land borders that accounts for 60% of the trading and commercial activities in Nigeria;

Yorubaland is blessed with the most intricate and valued mineral resources known to man: **KWARA AND KOGI STATES** - Gold, Marble, Iron-Ore, Cassiterite, Columbite, Tantalite, Feldspar (Traces), Mica (Traces)

LAGOS STATE - Glass-sand, Clay, Bitumen, Crude Oil

OGUN STATE - Phosphate, Clay, Feldspar (traces), Kaolin, Limestone, Gemstone, Bitumen, Crude Oil

ONDO AND EKITI STATES - Bitumen, Kaolin, Gemstone, Gypsum, Feldspar, Granite, Clay, Glass-sand, Dimension stones, Limestone, Coal, Crude Oil.

OSUN STATE - Gold, Talc, Toumaline, Columbite, Granite

OYO STATE - Kaoline, Marble, Clay, Sillimnite, Talc, Gold, Cassiterite, Aqua Marine, Dolomite, Gemstone, Tantalite;

Yorubaland has the most performing non-oil sectors of the economy, which include telecommunications [32%], building and construction [12.5%], solid minerals [12.5%], hotel and restaurants [12.5%], real estate [10.4%] and business services [9.7%]...A financial services infrastructure that includes 22 national

commercial banking institutions, 20 finance companies, 20 primary mortgage institutions, 2 merchant banks, 20 micro-finance banks and 5 development finance institutions, with extensive network of branches, and most significant operations in Nigeria. These institutions command money assets to the tune of \$6.4 billion [May 2013]

Yorubaland is one of the fastest growing economies in the world, of comparative size to other national economies. For instance, Lagos State produces about 12% of Nigeria's GDP, which is equivalent to almost \$32 billion [according to the 2013 estimates], making it Africa's 13th largest economy ahead of Tanzania Has Great tourism potentials due to

the peculiarity of its history and distinct geography, and capabilities in ICT and other skilled professions

Yorubaland is the most conducive and safest part of the Nigeria country for investors and visitors. Of the top 20 cities that McKinsey has identified as growth hot spots for companies targeting young, entry level consumers, Lagos and Ibadan are included in the list, alongside other urban centres such as Dar Es Salaam, Ouagadougou, Kampala and Lusaka.

Yorubaland has a competitive advantage that is leveraged on its strategic assets of a unique communality of language, customs and culture among its peoples; a demography consisting of a large youthful population; huge human and material resources including a large knowledgeable diaspora; vast tracts of arable agricultural land, renewable water resources, and the presence of extensive mineral deposits, such as hydrocarbons, etc. (*Culled from 'Regional Autonomy...or Nothing'[Source: DAWN Commission, 2012].*)

6. A nation with the land mass, population and all the potentials described above has no reason to be bogged down in a country as grossly inefficient as Nigeria. In essence, Nigeria represents a formidable obstacle to our development as a people, and as a nation. **Self-preservation is the first law, and so, we owe it a duty to our progeny and ourselves to do everything in our power to exit this chaos of a country. Indeed, we owe no one explanations, except ourselves, why we want out; We declare that it is sufficient to so wish!**
7. It is tragic enough that we are forced to be in a union that significantly devalues our potentials as a nation, worse still, this union is engendering hitherto unimaginable retrogression in all facets of our national life. Now, let it be made clear that every time the words 'nation' or 'national' is used in this document, it is referring to the Oduduwa Nation and not to Nigeria. Nigeria is not a nation, much less 'one nation bound in freedom, peace and unity', contrary to the lies being sold to Nigerians. Nigeria is a conglomeration of nations, indeed, a multinational country.
8. Nobody agreed to a Nigerian Constitution. At no point did we all sit down to draft one. But the constitution has told a lie about itself, even in its introduction, where it is written, "We the people." So, it is a fraudulent document, *ab initio*, and cannot survive as a uniting document. **Thus since Yoruba has no constitution to which it was signatory, binding it to Nigeria, we hereby declare its power and authority on us as non-binding, null and void!** In addition, it is non-secular. Inside the 1999 Constitution, *Shariah* was mentioned 73 times, *Grand Khadi* 54 times, *Islam* 28 times, *Muslims* 10 times and there is no single mention of Christ, Christian, Christianity or Church. Thus we can conclude that the Nigerian state is an Islamic state. **We declare that the Oduduwa**

Nation is secular, and does not seek to elevate one religion over the other. The Yoruba people are a living example to the world on complete religious harmony.

9. Nigeria has never, nor will it ever present the desired platform for exploiting our God-given human and material resources to their full potentials. Nigeria has always found a way of truncating our progress via contrived and avoidable crises, coup d'états, and unjust laws and constitutional restrictions. The reality on ground is that Nigeria is a country purposed for periodic failures occasionally mitigated by transient half-hearted attempts at redeeming itself, in a vicious cycle that has no end. The Buhari Presidency can best be situated in the context of these periodic half-hearted attempts. It can only end in the usual manner of grief and disappointment for us.
10. The current Nigeria is not oriented towards development, progress or prosperity. Nigeria now tends towards the maximization of power by the federal establishment. As a result, authority and control in Nigeria have been accumulated in the confines of the Federal Government. Nigeria, a country of different nations, has reduced the governments of the states of the Nigerian Federation to the level of impotency and incapability. These have stunted the growth and development of the states and their citizens. The Oduduwa nation aspire for development and the wellbeing of its people.
11. "The autonomy to develop the Yoruba Nation as a separate nation from Nigeria is the only factor that is missing in efforts to industrialize our region. All the ingredients for socio-economic development are present in Yoruba land and the questions of viability and sustainability do not arise." *[Yoruba Agenda, 2012]*
The overbearing attitude of the federal Government of Nigeria as reflected in its control of resources and the sharing of same, and the concentration and control of security apparatuses in the center have continued to be an impediment to our growth. These security forces have been unleashed on our people to kill and maim them under the pretext of maintaining law and order, in order to suppress legitimate protests, and in order to force us to accept rigged elections in the Federal elections of 1964 and 1983, and in the annulment of the 1993 election won by Chief M. K. O. Abiola.
It is this same overbearing attitude that has denied us the opportunity of having our own police system. A localized police system will ensure that the personnel are indigenes of our nation. The police are sometimes used against us as instruments of oppression and suppression rather than protection.
12. Within our borders, Fulani herdsmen rampage over our land with impunity. They kill, maim, rape, pillage and destroy farmlands, crops and property without hindrance. They have the belief that they have grazing rights over our crops and nothing can stop them, and it appears to be a deliberate state policy that they are never brought to justice, and so the mayhem continues unabated. **But the Yoruba Liberation Command (YCL)**

declares today, in the names of our ancestors and the owners of the land that this will no more be tolerated. This will be visited with the greatest severity of reprisal. If the enemies are in the bushes or in the savannah, upland or by the seaside, on our waters or in our cities. Anyone or group that terrorize, disturb, burgle, rape, rob, or kill any Yoruba person(s) or vandalize their properties will have the Yoruba Liberation Command (YLC) to answer to!

We are vulnerable because we are not allowed to defend ourselves under Nigerian laws even though the Nigerian Military has not demonstrated that it can defend itself, much less defend us. Religious crises have taken the lives of thousands of our people, while hundreds of our youths have died not defending the integrity of our nation but as soldiers of the Nigerian State hundreds of kilometers from their ancestral home in a religious conflict that should not have been our headache. **We hereby declare that the game has changed!**

13. Our association with the rest of Nigeria has continually been promoting a decline in our values. As long as we are in this lost ark of a country, our mores and ethos will continue to be warped, abnormality will be the norm, and our culture and traditions will count for nothing in the face of the deliberate, unrelenting and deleterious effect of the never-never land called Nigeria. Our civilization faces the growing possibility of being diluted into nonexistence by strange cultures and invaders who insist that we must develop at their own pace or have our development perpetually arrested.

The decline and deterioration in our nation because of the dilution effect of the rest of Nigeria is intolerable, and has led to fallen standards. This is reflected in inadequate industrial capacity, decayed infrastructure, high unemployment rate, poor road network and bad roads, poor healthcare delivery system, and a worsening social welfare system. It is glaring that we will never achieve our full potentials in Nigeria; we will remain in the quagmire caused by recurrent crises that seem to have become the norm.

Understandably, this cannot be a country a rational human being would want to hand over to his/her children, or conversely, hand over his/her children to. In short, we must face the reality that Nigeria is a nightmare that is not pretending to be a pleasant dream. We are now at a level in Nigeria, where the only region and people that are desperate to go to war to force one Nigeria on everybody, are the core-Northerners, their few slaves and willing tools from the middle-belt and the others, from the south, which they consider a conquered territory.

Freedom will not be offered to us; we will have to demand it. **We declare our readiness to engage Nigeria, by any means necessary, preferably peaceful, unless other means of engagement are forced on us, to which we shall respond resolutely, using all resources at our disposal to attain our independence!**

14. History as a subject is dead in Nigeria and has been replaced with propaganda seeking to subsume our distinct identity into the nebulous and dubious concept of the Nigerian

'nation'. This is a deliberate attempt to make us forget who we are and what we stand for. If things continue this way, we may soon become nation-less and stateless. The only way to stop this avoidable disappearance of our civilization and all we stand for is to make a bold and decisive move to end this unholy association. It is time to disembark from the Nigerian train which is headed nowhere because it is running on a circular track.

We declare that the Oduduwa Nation and people, as any colonized or oppressed people, has an unquestionable and inalienable right to self-determination, and in effect, has the right to free itself from foreign domination, be it political, economic or cultural, which Nigeria currently represents.

As the state of the Nigeria country continue to spiral from the ridiculous to the unpredictable, we ask all Yoruba Obas, Baales, Chiefs and Self-determination Groups to gird and organize themselves to protect and safeguard the lives and properties of all Yoruba nationals within their domain.

15. We advise the Nigeria military (The army, air force or the navy) not be tempted to carry out a coup in the name of one Nigeria, as it is doomed to fail from the onset. It will not succeed as it will be resisted by all corners of Nigeria, and with all powers at our disposal here in Yorubaland. Everybody is tired, frustrated and angry! **We declare that Nigeria must be dissolved through a United Nations conducted referendum for each and all to go their separate ways. We reject, in totality, any action purportedly carried out to force us and any other nationality together to belong to a dead union. Nigeria's unity is definitely negotiable!**

16. We hereby implore the United Nations to urgently convene a special session on Nigeria to commence the process of organizing a Nigeria Referendum, before the conflagration starts and anarchy is loose upon the land!

YORUBA LIBERATION COMMAND