Open Letter to Prof. Philip Emeagwali on Biafra

By Odimegwu Onwumere

The Biafran Flag

Sir, it is with a heart full of anger that I write this letter to you. Not that you provoked me or do we have anything in common but the Igbo-blood running in your vein and mine compelled me to write you. And I have been following your write-ups, mainly on your position on how the West have used the technology wrongly to humiliating the people of black Africa which culminated to slave trade, and the dispersion of Africans all over the world.

However, back home in Nigeria, the Nigerian polity had seen your race as a people less than thirty pieces of silver – that is Ndiigbo. For

Nigeria's widely differing peoples and ethnicities, Ndiigbo are yet to find any basis for true unity in Nigeria. Never has really the federation of Nigeria been one homogenous country. It was the shameless colonial masters who had to keep the country one. But that was unfortunate and obvious fact that they did that in order to harmoniously control the country's economic interests, which are more concentrated mainly in the South: now South-east and South-South geological zones.

You have known that South and North became amalgamated in the 1914: for the greedy colonialists administration convenience. Not that the people of South had anything in common with the North except the name Nigeria that they were forcefully asked to answer. Is this not insufficient basis for the Nigeria State to truly say it is in unity?

The pretext of that amalgamation ought to have brought the South and the North together, but for the lagging in cultural, social, religious and linguistic ties among the people, the so-called South and North know their fate when the rapacious colonialists might have left the "forced" Nigeria. Your people, Ndiigbo (that is people from now the South-east and South-south) were massacred in the Northern Nigeria on 29th September 1966.

That massacre was characterized by "organized Massacre". This circumstance was far from normal for a country, which claimed to be in unity, but such unity has mounted to threats, of a large extent to the very sensibilities of your people, Nidigbo.

Nigeria is trying to protect her economic interest, and this act had led to the massacre of your people before the Nigerian Revolution and the

Biafran war of 1967-70 and even up to date. Nigeria, like her colonial master Britain, introduced Divide and Rule System of governance in Nigeria, especially in the old South eastern state, now called South-east and South-south, for her avarice interest in the mammoth economic endowments which lurk in the states of the old eastern region. What can this system of government be called? Social apartheid, you may say.

Divide and Rule System of governance in Nigeria, encouraging social apartheid, has led to division, hatred, unhealthy rivalry, and organized inequality in the land of Biafra and among the various peoples of the state called Nigeria.

Now, there is no social integration among the various Nigerian peoples, all its ethnic groups are asking secession of which your brothers are among, agitating for a Sovereign State of Biafra. For this single reason, apart from the massacre in the North in the 60s, there have been series of killings of Ndiigbo in the North tagged religious crisis since after the civil war of 1967-70.

Now, Sir, how many time shall a man kill a lion before he would be called a lion killer? The people of Biafra have become a *suya*-meat to the Northerners and their acolytes from the Oduduwa region. Former President Obasanjo of Nigeria nearly wiped away Ndiigbo, if not for God's mercies. If he would deny this, why was there clampdown on the businesses of Ndiigbo during his tenure? Your brothers in the Niger-Delta also, are always killed by the Nigerian government in the creeks and in their villages because of the token they wanted from Nigerian state called *Resource Control.*

Sir, you are doing well in America, but do you ever think where you may call a home, coming back to Nigeria and seeing that you have no brother, sister, father, mother and even kinsmen, all wiped out by the Nigerian government. Your people want you to use your exalted office to letting the world know their plight. Just for the reason that Biafra wants secession, any Igbo son and daughter who pronounce Biafra is bound to risk his life. What a bizarre!

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