



**SPREADING THE WORD,  
CREATING HOPE:  
A Book of Peace Messages**

**EDITED BY**

Halima Sani

Y.Z. Ya'u

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## PREFACE

One of the key challenges to the deepening and consolidation of democracy in Nigeria is the increasing instances of violence across the country. The spate of violence takes various hues such as kidnappings and hostage taking, bandit violence, ethnic and communal violence, urban violent gangs and insurgent violence. Of these, insurgent and ethno-religious conflicts have been the most critical in terms of their direct challenge to national unity and cohesion.

We feel that this challenge has to be confronted by mobilizing our collective conscience to work for the ending of insurgent and other types of violence and restore the peace in our communities. It was in this context that the Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) with support through a grant from MacArthur Foundation in 2013 commenced the implementation of a social media campaign for peace building and promotion of national unity and cohesion. The objectives of the project include:

1. Conduct training for civil society organizations members to use social media to promote tolerance, diversity and peace in Northern Nigeria
2. Develop and deploy social media platforms to be used to promote tolerance, diversity and peace in Northern Nigeria
3. Engage civil society organizations and other stakeholders to articulate alternative appropriate and effective framework for addressing the myriad of violence afflicting the country
4. Document cases of extra judicial killings, disappearances and torture
5. Conduct advocacy activities to selected community and religious leaders in communities affected by violence and target both state and federal government officials including legislators with a view to getting them buy in the alternative framework for rolling back violence

They have also been uploaded on the project website ([www.citad4peace.org.ng](http://www.citad4peace.org.ng)).

While we recognize that the social medial interconnect with other media and therefore messages jump from one to the other in both directions and by so doing reach much wider audiences, we feel that as part of the conventional advocacy for peace building, we should make these messages available in print form to others that might otherwise not been able to be reached via social media. In addition the print form also allows others to use the messages in other forms that they may find helpful in building peace.

Taking these messages to print produces an unconventional book. This is because unlike conventional books with their linear narratives and prose, this has none of these. Instead the messages are simply a collection thought to build up the argument in whatever order they are read. In their different tones, styles, tenor and logic, all are arguing for one thing, which is to make peace.

At first we wanted all the contributors to keep to a format we gave them and wanted the messages to be divided as follows:

1. Short messages that should not be more than 140 characters suitable for dissemination using twitter and text messaging
2. Longer messages that can be disseminated using facebook, emails and discussion groups
3. Long passages and articles that would be placed on website and circulated as email attachments and
4. Visuals: this could be picture, drawings, cartoons etc that would help to illustrate and pass powerful messages for peace
5. Video clips and shots: short films, video clips, etc that could be uploaded onto YouTube.

In the end, we were not able to get visuals and video clips. We also allowed the contributors a free hand, as message development is like art and therefore does not like too much boundaries that could limit the creativity of the authors. Once we would not get visuals to accompany each of the chapter, we fell back to our resources internally and asked our staff to give us visual messages, which were actually used in the various peace platforms that we operate.



## INTRODUCTION

By Halima Sani

Introducing a book of this nature is no less tasking than it is demanding because of its composition and the message it intends to pass across to its audience. Efforts by the author, Center for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) to work out an agenda for peace in place of violence, especially among the Nigerian youths, is succinctly conveyed here with insistent ardor. CITAD, being the driving wheel towards achieving a violence-free Nigerian environment in the current political evolution cannot be over emphasized.

The projection of a peace mission in the midst of ignorance and poverty as presented, beginning from this chapter 1, clearly reveals the zeal with which the book fashions itself to achieve the goal that is being intended. Quotable quotes that preach peace from distinguished world leaders, intellectuals, eminent persons and other personalities of substance, living or dead from around the globe, is a testimony to the seriousness and commitment to the just cause this project is pursuing.

In fact the fervour the message carries in this chapter is strong and directional while the commitment is unprecedented.

The book is about a people in diversity seeking a sustainable destiny in peace and prosperity, but facing the challenge of various forms of violence ranging from political, ethnic, religious and other forms of violence. The agents of these debilitating happenings are usually the youths who are turned into cannon fodders by so-called leaders for selfish reasons, while their own children are protected from the bandwagon effect of imminent destruction and dismemberment of a nation that desperately searches for peace.

Chapter 2 which deals with peace messages from the Christian perspectives acknowledges individual rights are sacrosanct but such must not be seen stepping the bounds to create violence as revealed by the scriptures. Instead, love and not hate needs to be promoted and where necessary, enforced to keep the peace among Nigerians.

revealed by the scriptures. Instead, love and not hate needs to be promoted and where necessary, enforced to keep the peace among Nigerians.

Messages on peace coming from the top echelon of the Christian leaders such as Pope John Paul II, Pope John Paul VI, Mother Theresa and many more, speak volumes of sense regarding God's infinite wisdom in directing us toward building those structures that promote and sustain peace which has eluded Nigerians over the decades.

From these men of God, we come to understand the fact that God did not create anyone of us to foment trouble or create hate irrespective of religious or other differences. Thus, our responsibility is to become bridge builders because we are seen as channels through which the river of peace flows towards building one family, regardless of differences.

The chapter is fundamentally that of peace preached by eminent persons of God sending God's messages to all of us Nigerians and admonishing those that harbour hate to bury their hatchets and come to build "one nation that's bound in freedom, peace and unity". It is encouraging to note that these highly respected men and women of God tell us of the need to forgive one another as the surest way to maintaining peace and attaining greater heights in our efforts to build a strong, virile and progressive nation. Peace is therefore, a virtue the Christians and indeed all Nigerians must strive to keep.

From the Christian duty and virtue to solidarity as tool for co-existence among Nigerians, the message is peace, peace, peace because there is nothing like it.

In Chapter 3, the messages of peace come from Islam, the religion of peace as revealed in the Qur'an through Prophet Muhammad (SAW) by Allah (SWT). In a multi-ethnic, religious and cultural composition like Nigeria, the only way to unite is to cultivate the culture of peace and tolerance as a pre-requisite to lasting survival as a nation.

Islam, in its concept and creed views human society as one. It is good to understand that human beings are vicegerents of Allah (SWT) on earth and therefore have the most special place among all creations. In the religion of

as a nation.

Islam, in its concept and creed views human society as one. It is good to understand that human beings are vicegerents of Allah (SWT) on earth and therefore have the most special place among all creations. In the religion of Islam peace is promoted to an advocacy that all beings should be bound together irrespective of what colour or creed they belong because the Prophet (SAW) has enjoined us to do so as he did in so many instances with non-Muslims.

The Qur'an, the Glorious Book of Muslims has admonished Muslims to live in peace with all their neighbours-Muslims or non-Muslims alike, for such a relationship is the bedrock upon which a just and egalitarian society is built.

The essence of this revelation from Allah (SWT) is that, as provided in this chapter, hate is not with Allah, but love for one another because it provides the basis of national unity among a people so diverse like in the context of Nigeria.

Allah (SWT) in His infinite wisdom abhors corruption in the society. This is contained in many chapters of the Qur'an and the wisdom behind shunning corruption that has eaten deep into our fabrics is to avoid enmity among the people, because a society that lives on corruption can never have peace. Thus, to be just is to build peace among people, and leaders are the ones saddled with this responsibility.

Much more, the Creator, Allah (SWT) says in the Qur'an injustice which connotes wrong doing, ill-treatment, oppression, tyranny and inequity and which negatives are very much with us, is unlawful.

In summation, the chapter is dealing with the issue of injustice in governance, promoting genuine mediation, responsive governance and avoidance of irrationality in leadership as the basis for peace in the society.

The message in chapter 4 pertains to elections and electoral violence and

The message in chapter 4 pertains to elections and electoral violence and the need to stop bloodshed and destruction of property. The advocacy centres around peace that has eluded Nigerians. There is no need, and it is foolhardy, for anyone to die for someone else's selfish interest.

That is to say electoral peace is what must be craved for and the search for this invaluable five- letter word should not be compromised.

Men and women of conscience, young and old should strive to maintain peace in any election in this country in future.

It is important to note that while electoral violence is a human invention, peace can always equally be invented in view of its priceless nature. Genuine election devoid of violence is the one that survives under the philosophy of give-and-take. In peaceful elections, both the weak and strong are given their dues, their opportunity to elect and be elected, vote or be voted. Nations around the world do so without dripping the blood of a mouse, so people wonder why this cannot be achieved in Nigeria. It is a worthless venture to use Nigerian youths to cause violence. These are mostly the politicians who prefer to destroy generations for the sake of their selfish survival in affluence than preserving it.

The chapter tells us that all religions are against injustice. From pre-election campaigns to party primaries to election proper and post-election happenings, one thing that is being advocated by Islam for instance, is peace and nothing but peace for there's no chapter in the Qur'an that advocated any shedding of innocent blood.

The responsibilities and onus are therefore on Nigerians at this point in time, young and old to understand that it is now a must for all of us to eschew violence and never to allow again, politicians to use anyone of us to campaign for votes based on religious or ethnic sentiment. CITAD believes this is the only way we can live in peace to forge ahead.

Reflections and musings on elections are what this chapter is all about with a view to creating a positive and proactive atmosphere for peace to reign supreme in our nation. Nigeria has witnessed unimaginable anguish as a result of violence-related incidences. The horrors of insurgency,

Reflections and musings on elections are what this chapter is all about with a view to creating a positive and proactive atmosphere for peace to reign supreme in our nation. Nigeria has witnessed unimaginable anguish as a result of violence-related incidences. The horrors of insurgency, kidnaping, militancy, armed robbery and other social vices are largely inventions of selfish leadership.

Therefore, since violence through use of brute force, CITAD believes, can never solve our problems, the way out is to cultivate peace and allow its seeds to germinate and wait for its bumper harvest, and that can be achieved by way of various enlightenment campaigns against violence and education of the youths against destruction to drive home certain demands.

Indeed, tackling violence to institute peace as CITAD is tasking itself, is a “task that must be done”. The journey is far but the destination can be reached through collective efforts and saying 'No' to violence.

A picture, it is said, paints a thousand words. Therefore, the book includes some infographs which convey messages of peace and pictures of notable individuals who support and lend their voices to the clarion call for peace.

In the end, it is hoped that this book will go a long way in assuaging fears among Nigerians that this nation, brought together by destiny, could be dismembered by its enemies from within and outside. Nigeria must survive in peace and collective understanding. This is the message.



# CHAPTER 1: COMMUNITY PEACE MESSAGES AND QUOTES

By Emmanuel Ande Ivorgba, PhD

1. Peace is not the absence of conflict but the presence of creative alternatives for responding to conflict-alternatives to passive or aggressive responses, alternatives to violence.
2. True peace begins with you. Be the peace you wish to see in the world.
3. Weapons do not bleed, but human beings do. Embrace Peace and say No to violence. **-Godwin Okoko**
4. Peace is a friend to everyone and enemy to no one.
5. Act peace, talk peace, walk peace and be the peace.
6. Your peace is my peace. **-Godwin Okoko**
7. The absence of peace is the worst injustice to mankind. Support and promote peace.
8. The driving force for peace is to do unto others what you expect from others. **-Ahon Adaka T.**
9. Peace is the engine house for any meaningful development.
- 10 You have peace when you make it with yourself.  
**-Mitch Albom**
11. Until he extends the circle of his compassion to all living things, man will not himself find peace. **-Albert Schweitzer**
12. If peace can only come through killing someone, then I don't want it. **-Hiro Mashima**
13. An Enemy is one whose story we have not heard.  
**-Gene Knudsen Hoffman**
14. Nothing is more precious than peace. Peace is the most basic starting point for the advancement of human kind.  
**-Daisaku Ikeda**
15. We must pursue peaceful ends through peaceful means.  
**-Martin Luther King Jr.**

16. Peace cannot be achieved through violence. It can only be attained through understanding. -**Ralph Waldo Emerson**
17. There is no way to peace. Peace is the way. -**A.J. Muste**
18. A Wiseman will love peace instead of war.
19. When you find peace within yourself, you become the kind of person who can live at peace with others. -**Peace Pilgrim**
20. Peace comes from within. Do not seek it without. -**Buddha**
21. Peace is its own reward. -**Mahatma Ghandi**
22. When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace. - **Jimi Hendrix**
23. We look forward to the time when the power of love will replace the love of power. Then will our world know the blessings of peace. -**William Gladstone**
24. Peace is costly but it is worth the expense. - **African Proverb**
25. All we are saying is give peace a chance. - **John Lennon.**
26. If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other. - **Mother Theresa.**
27. We seek peace, knowing that peace is the climate of freedom - **Dwight D. Eisenhower.**
28. It is not enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it is not enough to believe in it. One must work for it **Eleanor Roosevelt.** The real and lasting victories are those of peace and not of wars -**Ralph Waldo Emerson**
29. Peace is the only battle worth waging **Albert Camus**
30. Human beings; indeed all sentient beings, have the right to pursue happiness and live in peace and freedom. -**His Holiness the Dalai Lama**
31. Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding-**Albert Einstein**

32. It is possible to live in peace. -**Mahatma Ghandi**
33. Peace can only last where human rights are respected, where people are fed and where individuals and nations are free.  
-**His Holiness the Dalai Lama**
34. Peace is not only better than war, but infinitely more arduous.  
- **George Berraku Bhaw**
35. Peace has to be created in order to be maintained. It is the product of faith, strength, energy, will, sympathy, justice, imagination and triumph of principle. It will never be achieved by passivity and quietism. - **Dorothy Thompson**
36. We must learn to live together as brothers and sisters or perish together as fools. -**Martin Luther King**
37. Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend
38. A person is a person because he recognizes others as persons
39. Without forgiveness there is no future
40. It is easy to be friendly to one's friends. But to be friend the one who regards himself as your enemy is the quintessence of true religion.  
-**Muhammad Ali**
41. No culture can survive if it attempts to be exclusive
42. My religion is based on truth and non-violence. Truth is my God. Non-violence is the means of realizing Him.  
-**Muhammad Ali**
43. First keep the peace within yourself, and then you can also bring Peace to others. - **Thomas A Kempis**
44. Ashes always fly back in the face of him who throws them.  
-**African Saying**
45. He who throws stones in the market will hit his own relative.  
-**African Saying**

- 46.If we stand tall it is because we stand on the backs of those who came before us.
47. Hate no one, no matter how much they've hurt you.
48. You have heard that it was said, "Love your neighbor and hate your enemy." But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. **-Jesus (Matthew 5:43-44)**
- 49.If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner. **-Nelson Mandela**
- 50.Hate is like fire; it burns those who hold it. **-Alden Loveshade**
- 51.One can not reflect in streaming water. Only those who know internal peace can give it to others. **-Lao Tzu**
52. Hate destroys love builds. Hate tears down, love renews and creates
- 53.Hatred holds no hope for the future. Love creates today as its own better future. **-Jonathan Lockwood**
54. There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies.  
**-Martin Luther King, Jr.**
55. In the moment of crisis, the wise build bridges and the foolish build dams. **-Nigerian proverb**
56. When you build the bridge next to you, and I build the bridge next to me, in no time at all, we'll all have it up. So link it, build it, one by one.  
**-Aishatu Ibrahim**
57. You can't make peace with your enemy, without your enemy. -  
**Reena Lazar**
58. It is the future of the children that should spur both sides toward peace **-Izzeldin Abuelaish**
59. People become the stories they hear and the stories they tell.

60. New weapons have made the risk of war a suicidal hazard. Modern war visits destruction on the victor and the vanquished alike. Our only complete assurance of surviving...is to halt it before it starts.  
- **General Omar Bradley**
61. And they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.
62. When you get to know 'them,' you come to realize that war is really stupid because the other folks are just like us in every way that matters.
63. From a distance we are instruments marching in a common band.
64. We build too many walls and not enough bridges.
65. How can we have peace if we don't build relationships?
66. Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning how to dance in the rain!
67. Modern collectivism is the last barrier raised by man against a meeting with himself.
68. To disarm an enemy, build a bridge. Hear their story. Dignify them Empathize.
69. There is no 'other;' there is no 'enemy'. Humanity heals together.
70. People fail to get along because they fear each other; they fear each other because they don't know each other; they don't know each other because they have not communicated with each.
71. "Wanting" peace without seeking social intercourse is like conceiving a baby without the required sperm and egg, the needed opposites, expecting a miracle that isn't going to happen.
72. A story is the shortest distance between people.
73. Storytelling is a shared experience, and shared experiences are the basis of all relationships.

74. We are one human family -- neighbors forever -- with our shared story of Earth and us.
75. Unconditional love is the absolute key to peaceful co-existence in societies.
76. Peace begins with a smile.
77. Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable.
78. Nobody can bring you peace but yourself.
79. Peace and friendship with all mankind is our wisest policy, and I wish we may be permitted to pursue it.
80. If flight-simulators teach how to fly, what do violence-simulators teach? The answer leaves little space for peaceful dreams.
81. Peace is more than the absence of war , it is living together with our diversities.
82. The most valuable possession you can own is an open heart. The most powerful weapon you can possess is an instrument of peace.
83. Peace is a journey of a thousand miles and it must be taken one step at a time.
84. He that would live in peace and at ease must not speak all he knows, hears or all he sees.
85. A people not free to choose will always resort to violence.
86. The reward of love and care is peace.
87. Non violence is the first article of my faith. It is also the last article of my creed
88. It is an unfortunate fact that we can secure peace only by preparing for war.
89. Let there be work, bread, water and salt for all and would be peace.
90. If you want to make peace, you don't talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies.

91. There is nothing that war has ever achieved that we could not better achieve without it.
92. No one is so foolish as to prefer war to peace, in which, instead of sons burying their fathers, fathers bury their sons.
93. Mankind must put an end to war or war will put an end to mankind.
94. If the human race wishes to have a prolonged and indefinite period of material prosperity, they have only got to behave in a peaceful and helpful way toward one another.
95. Never think that war, no matter how necessary, nor how justified, is not a crime.
96. If they want peace, nations should avoid the pin-pricks that precede cannon shots.
97. Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek but a means by which we arrive at that goal.
98. You can bomb the world to pieces, but you can't bomb it into peace.
99. All men desire peace, but very few desire those things that make for peace.
100. Do not be afraid to take a chance on peace, to teach peace, to live peace. Peace will be the last word of history.
101. Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures. And however undramatic the pursuit of peace, the pursuit must go on.
102. War is only a cowardly escape from the problems of peace.
103. Without inner peace, outer peace is impossible. We all wish for world peace, but world peace will never be achieved unless we first establish peace within our own minds. We can send so-called 'peacekeeping forces' into areas of conflict, but peace cannot be imposed from the outside with guns. Only by creating peace within our own mind and

helping others to do the same can we hope to achieve peace in this world.

104. Where ignorance is our master, there is no possibility of real peace.
105. Restiveness and impatience change nothing except our peace and joy. Peace does not dwell in outward things, but in the heart prepared to wait trustfully and quietly on Him who has all things safely in His hands.
106. When we feel love and kindness toward others, it not only makes others feel loved and cared for, but it helps us also to develop inner happiness and peace
107. Be a light unto the world, and hurt it not. Seek to build not to destroy. Bring my people home: By your shining example. Seek only Godliness. Speak only in truthfulness. Act only in love.
108. Peace demands the most heroic labor and the most difficult sacrifice. It demands greater heroism than war. It demands greater fidelity to the truth and a much more perfect purity of conscience.
109. There would be no peace and freedom until justice rolls down like water and righteousness like a mighty stream.
110. Peace does not mean an absence of conflicts; differences will always be there. Peace means solving these differences through peaceful means; through dialogue, education, knowledge; and through humane ways.
111. Instead of hating the people you think are war-makers, hate the appetites and disorder in your own soul, which are the causes of war. If you love peace, then hate injustice, hate tyranny, hate greed - but hate these things in yourself, not in another.
112. If we cannot end now our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity.

113. It does not matter how long you are spending on the earth, how much money you have gathered or how much attention you have received. It is the amount of positive vibration you have radiated in life that matters.
114. It's hard to hear over the racket of gunfire. Political gladiators want to talk about war, but the people want to talk about peace. Letting go gives us freedom, and freedom is the only condition for happiness. If, in our heart, we still cling to anything anger, anxiety or hatred - we cannot be free.
115. No one is so foolish as to prefer war to peace, in which, instead of sons burying their fathers, fathers bury their sons.
116. As much as it hurts, I would rather miss someone than hit someone.
117. Peace is not something you wish for, it is something you make, something you are, something you do, and something you give away.
118. Courage is the price that life exacts for granting peace.
119. There is nothing that war has ever achieved that we could not better achieve without it
120. If everyone in the world sat quietly at the same time, closed their eyes and concentrated as hard as they could on peace and goodwill, all the killing and cruelty in the world would continue.
121. There is no strength to be gained from hurting one another. Only weakness.
122. We shall find peace. We shall hear angels, we shall see the sky sparkling with diamonds.
123. Peace and trust take years to build and seconds to shatter.
124. The first peace, which is the most important, is that which comes within the souls of people when they realize their relationship, their oneness with the universe and all its powers, and when they realize at the center of the universe dwells the Great Spirit, and that its center is really everywhere, it is within each of us.

125. The true value of a human being can be found in the degree to which he has attained liberation from the self.
126. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred..
127. If you cannot find peace within yourself, you will never find it anywhere else.
128. When all the wars are over, a butterfly will still be beautiful.
129. The practice of forgiveness is our most important contribution to the healing of the world.
130. It is impossible to build one's own happiness on the unhappiness of others. This perspective is at the heart of Buddhist teachings.
131. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.
132. Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars.
133. For as long as men massacre animals, they will kill each other. Indeed, he who sows the seeds of murder and pain cannot reap joy and love.
134. For as long as man continues to be the ruthless destroyer of lower living beings, he will never know peace.
135. It is not enough to win a war; it is more important to organize the peace
136. The true value of man is to truly empathize with others without which there would be hatred and jealousy.
137. World peace must develop from inner peace. Peace is not just mere absence of violence. Peace is the manifestation of human compassion.
138. Peace is more than the absence of war; it is accord and harmony.
139. Peace is always beautiful.
140. You may choose to look the other way but you can never say again that you did not know.

141. Many people think excitement is happiness but when you are excited you are not peaceful. True happiness is based on peace.
142. You find peace not by rearranging the circumstances of your life, but by realizing who you are at the deepest level.
143. The Simple Path. Silence is Prayer. Prayer is Faith. Faith is Love. Love is Service. The Fruit of Service is Peace.
144. Any nation desirous to achieve peace must place the responsibility for peace on all citizenry.
145. If someone thinks that peace and love are just a cliché that must have been left behind, that's a problem. Peace and love are eternal.
146. If everyone demanded peace instead of another demanding television set, then there would be peace.
147. Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that.  
Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that
- 148..Let the first act of every morning be to make the following resolve for the day:
- I shall not fear anyone on Earth.
  - I shall fear only God.
  - I shall not bear ill-will toward anyone.
  - I shall not submit to injustice from anyone.
  - I shall conquer untruth by truth. And in resisting untruth, I shall put up with all suffering.
149. Whenever you are confronted with an opponent conquer him with love.
150. We often think of peace as the absence of war, that if powerful countries would reduce their weapon arsenals, we could have peace. But if we look deeply into the weapons, we see our own minds - our own prejudices, Fears and ignorance. Even if we transport all the

bombs to the moon, the roots of war and the roots of bombs are still there, in our hearts and minds, and sooner or later we will make new bombs. To work for peace is to uproot war from ourselves and from the hearts of men and women. To prepare for war, to give millions of men and women the opportunity to practice killing day and night in their hearts, is to plant millions of seeds of violence, anger, frustration, and fear that will be passed on for generations to come.

151. True freedom is not advanced in the permissive society, which confuses freedom with license to do anything whatever and which in the name of freedom proclaims a kind of general amorality. It is a caricature of freedom to claim that people are free to organize their lives with no reference to moral values, and to say that society does not have to ensure the protection and advancement of ethical values. Such an attitude is destructive of freedom and peace.
152. There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us.
153. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies.
154. Once you label me, you negate me.
155. You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view.
156. Peace is a journey of a thousand miles and it must be taken one step at a time.
157. It is never too late to give up our prejudices.
158. For every minute you remain angry, you give up sixty seconds of peace of mind.
159. When we talk about democracy, if the people's stomach is empty, democracy is also empty. Democracy cannot be installed by fiat; it must be achieved by the people themselves.
160. Whatever you do, do with kindness. Whatever you say, say with kindness. Wherever you go, radiate kindness.

## CHAPTER 2: MESSAGES FROM CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVES

### Peace Messages

By Women's Interfaith Council, Kaduna

#### MESSAGES FOR FACEBOOK OR EMAIL

1. *Truth* will build peace if every individual sincerely acknowledges not only their rights, but also their own duties towards others. *Justice* will build peace if in practice everyone respects the rights of others and actually fulfils their duties towards them. *Love* will build peace if people feel the needs of others as their own and share what they have with others, especially the values of mind and spirit which they possess. *Freedom* will build peace and make it thrive if, in the choice of the means to that end, people act according to reason and assume responsibility for their own actions. (John Paul II, Message for World Day of Peace 2003).

2. If we wish to have true peace, we must give it a soul. The soul of peace is love. It is love that gives life to peace, more than victory or defeat, more than self-interest or fear or weariness or need. The soul of peace is love, which for us believers comes from the love of God and expresses itself in love for all people. (Pope Paul VI).

3. Living in peace is both an outward and an inward process. Outwardly, living in peace is a way of life in which we respect and love each other in spite of our cultural, religious, and political differences. Inwardly, we all need to search our hearts and minds and understand the fear that causes the impulse to violence, for in continuing to ignore the rage within, the storm outside will never subside.

4. Our work and efforts towards realizing peace gives us a pledge of the beatific light and gives us the opportunity to peek through the window into eternity. Every time God's peace invades our present existence, we get a foretaste of the infinitely greater peace that will someday envelope heaven and earth. But as long as we remain in this life, this peace can only invade our existence to the extent we open ourselves to receive it by setting the

structures right.

5. In the Fall, the initial fellowship with God for which we were created was damaged but through God's presence among us it is perpetually refreshed in the river of divine peace. We are to become channels through which the river flows into our lives, families and society.

6. Society needs bridge-builders. We need peacemakers. It is the 'little good' that we do in the intimacy of our family, and friends, in the offices, in the factory, that forms the building bricks towards the great edifice of general wellbeing.

7. In exhorting us to 'do our part to live in peace with everyone' (Rom. 12: 14), the use of "everyone," extends the obligation beyond the borders of our church, family, friends and all those we deem 'worthy' of our peace.

8. Working for peace today is an obligation that is necessarily self-assertive. This is especially because it has always been a part of the human being to earnestly seek peace in the depths of his/her being. Since this desire for peace springs from within, so has it been rightly said that there is peace in the world to the extent that there is righteousness in the heart.

9. The cycle of violence provoking revenge, which in turn provokes more violence, is broken by the simple act of absorbing or accepting the violence. What better explains Jesus' "turning the other cheek".

10. Mother Theresa of Calcutta would say: "Peace begins with a smile. Smile five times a day at someone you don't really want to smile at; do it for peace". Granted that it becomes more challenging when it is most contrary to smile, yet it is at such moments that it makes the greater impact.

11. Thank you for picking my call, I dialed to talk with you about a much talked about topic in our families, schools, churches, states and the country at large: Peace. Oh peace, much talked about, seldom enhanced, seldom cultivated. That peace rents the air in our daily lives shows there is a dearth.

of peace in many quarters of our life. Yes there can be no peace without justice but both peace and justice are for humans. If the valedictory words of Jesus; peace I leave you my own peace I bequeath to you... is anything to go by, then we must know that peace is not impossible. Lakshmi Pandit counsels, the more we sweat in search for peace, the less we bleed in war. We must work for peace for where there is no risk, there is no reward. Peace pays. Sow peace today.

12. Events in history question man and woman in earnest. This enquiry probes the deepest recesses of the heart: war, arms trade, armaments, nuclear weaponry and a host of others. Where are we heading to? Can there be an answer? Love is the answer to everyone's need, love is the prayer that everyone needs, peace is the answer to everyone's need, and peace should be the prayer on everyone's lips. Progress and mutual co-existence can only be possible in an atmosphere of peace.

13. I need peace, you need peace, and we all need peace. Man and woman will never find peace until they extend their circle of compassion to include all human beings.

14. The world rests upon three things: upon truth, upon justice and upon PEACE. All those three are really one, for when justice is done, the truth becomes an actuality, and peace a reality. May God grant us peace in justice and charity!

15. Five great enemies to peace inhabits with us, corresponding in number to the five letters that make up the word P E A C E. They are pride, envy, avarice, ambition and anger. If they were to be banished, we would infallibly enjoy perpetual peace. You are a stakeholder in the execution of this peace plan.

16. Nice people must see themselves as nasty people before they can find peace. When they exchange their proud and diabolic belief that they never did anything wrong, for a hope for a Divine remedy for their mistakes, they will have attained to the condition of normality, peace and happiness.

17. Lord make me an instrument of your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light; And where there is sadness, joy. O God, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love; For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. (Prayer of Francis of Assisi, 1226)

18. When German tanks rolled onto her family property in southern France in 1940, Maiti Girtanner, a young French woman was appalled, and decided to join the resistance movement. She was eventually captured and tortured by a German doctor who specialized in crippling people by interfering with their central nervous system. She was the only one of twenty who survived, but she lived afterwards in constant, excruciating pain. In 1984, in her simple apartment near Paris, she received a phone call and immediately recognized the voice as that of the German doctor. They met and shared together. She was able to forgive him. He had become a mayor in a small town in Austria, and on his return home from his visit with Maiti, he gathered together his family and the villagers and he told them the truth about his life. Two weeks later he died of cancer in peace. Forgiveness is an important herald of peace. (Jean Vanier, *Finding Peace*:2003:46)

19. Consider the case of one who lost his freedom at the age of 16, lost his country at 24, and has been a refugee for the past forty years, with difficult trials. He said “as I look back, my life has not been easy”. However, through these years, he has learnt about compassion, about caring for others and about promoting peace. This mental attitude gave me inner strength and joy he testified. And every day he prays thus: *so long as space remains; so long as sentient beings remain; I will remain; in order to help, in order to serve; in order to make my own contribution 'for peace'*. We can also take a leaf from him.

20. “Love one another; to others as to you; forgive one another; share all things in common; turn the other cheek...” are all these scriptural injunctions practicable? Is it possible to live out these values in the context of an aggressive and volatile milieu like ours? Remember His words: “if you love me you will keep my word”; and “I will be with you till the end of time”.

21. Then the wolf shall be the guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them. The cow and the bear shall be neighbors, together their young shall rest; the lion shall eat hay like the ox. The baby shall play by the cobra's den, and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair. (Isa 11:6-8). The Lord speaks peace to his people. One way to look at this text is to understand that it is possible that opposites can come together, maintain their distinctiveness and live in harmony. In spite of our different religious persuasions and cultural distinctiveness and convictions, we can indeed live in harmony.

22. To be a peacemaker is to be a pilgrim sailing to a new and unknown holy land. It is to be an explorer sailing away from the broken, the divided, the known world, through uncharted and sometimes stormy seas, to discover new seeds of life, of unity ready to grow and flower. Pilgrim sailors can sometimes feel alone as they sail the rough seas towards peace. But they are never alone, because they are seeking the home of God. You can also work generously for peace.

23. It is a sign of hope that, despite many serious obstacles, initiatives for peace continue to spring up day by day, with the generous cooperation of many people. Peace is a building constantly under construction. The building up of peace involves:

- parents who are examples and witnesses of peace in their families, and who educate their children for peace;

- teachers who are able to pass on the genuine values present in every field of knowledge and in the historical and cultural heritage of humanity;
- working men and women, who are committed to extending their age-old struggle for the dignity of work to those present-day situation which, at the international level, cry out for justice and solidarity;
- political leaders who put at the heart of their own political activity and that of their countries a firm and unwavering determination to promote peace and justice;
- those in international Organizations who often with scarce resources, work in the front line where being “peace makers” can involve risking their own personal safety;
- the members of Non-governmental Organizations who, in different parts of the world and in most varied situations, are dedicated to preventing and resolving conflict through research and activity;
- believers who, convinced that authentic faith is never a source of war or violence, spread convictions of peace and love through ecumenical and interreligious dialogue. (John Paul II World Day of Peace, 1999)

You can indeed generously work for peace in whatever place or capacity you find yourself.

24. Give me the money that has been spent in war, and I will clothe every man, woman and child in an attire of which kings and queens will be proud, I would build a schoolhouse in every valley over the whole earth. I will crown every hillside with a place of worship consecrated to the gospel of peace. (**Charles Sumner**)

25. During the Second World War an emperor entered the church in his local area after it had been attacked. The survivors gathered in the Church for Mass. During the communion rite Where the 'Our Father' is recited, at 22

the point of 'forgive us our trespasses', there was a pin-drop silence and only one lone voice continued the prayer: "as we forgive those who sin against us". This was the voice of the emperor who had lost all he had in the raid except for his life and faith. This is an exemplar of forgiveness which is so lacking in our world today. "Love your enemies and pray for those who hurt you."

26. There can be peace only when humanity as a whole rediscovers its fundamental calling to be one family, a family in which the dignity and right of individuals whatever their status, race or religion are accepted as superior to any kind of differences and distinction.

27. Peace is an aspect of God's activity made manifest both in the creation of an orderly harmonious universe and in the redemption of humanity that needs to be rescued from the disorder of sin. Therefore, I invoke peace upon all those experiencing pains and suffering, those living under threat of violence and armed aggression and those who await their human and social emancipation, having had their dignity trampled upon.

28. Peace is the fruit of that ordering of things with which the divine founder has invested human society and which must be actualized by human beings thirsting for an ever more perfect reign of justice (**Gaudium et Spes, 78**).

29. The building up of peace involves parents who are examples and witnesses of peace in their respective families. Teachers on their own part need to pass on the genuine values present in every field of knowledge, be it in the historical, cultural or religious heritage of humanity.

30. Dialogue leads to a recognition of diversity and opens the mind to mutual acceptance and genuine collaboration demanded by the basic vocation to unity of the human family. As such, dialogue is a privileged means for building the civilization of love and peace.

31. True peace in every society is the fruit of justice, which ensures full respect for rights and responsibilities, and the just distribution of benefits

And burdens.

32. Christ is the prince of peace and all people are called to be princes of peace. We therefore look up to the Prince of Peace to give peace to our troubled world, and give us, his children, security of mind and freedom from anxiety.

33. When we fight war to have peace, then we have lost the peace by starting the war. There is always an alternative to violence as solution; let us explore an all-accommodating method of seeking settlement.

34. Peace cannot be attained on earth without safeguarding the goods of persons, free communication among humans, respect for the dignity of humans and the assiduous practice of fraternity. Peace is the tranquility of order. Peace is the work of justice and the effect of charity. **(CCC 2304)**

35. Earthly peace is the image and fruit of the peace of Christ, the messianic prince of peace. By the Blood of his Cross, in his own person he killed the hostility; he reconciled men and women with God and made his Church the sacrament of the unity of the human race and of its union with God. **(CCC 2305)**

36. Those who renounce violence and bloodshed and, in order to safeguard human rights, make use of those means of defense available to the weakest, bear witness to evangelical charity, provided they do so without harming the rights and obligations of other humans and societies. They bear legitimate witness to the gravity of the physical and moral risks of recourse to violence, with all its destruction and death. **(CCC 2306)**

37. Humankind has gradually come closer together and is everywhere more conscious of its own unity; but it will not succeed in accomplishing the task awaiting it, that is, the establishment of a truly human world for all people over the entire earth, unless everyone devotes himself/herself to the cause of true peace with renewed vigour. **(Gaudium et Spes, 77)**

38. If it is true that one of the most virulent forms of rejection is avoiding people, then love of enemies will demand maintaining at least a minimum of social contact with the other.

39. They who are humble easily obey everyone, fear to offend anyone, are at peace with everyone, are kind with all. **(St Thomas of Villanova)**

40. Peace is not the product of terror or fear. Peace is not the silence of cemeteries. Peace is not the silent result of violent repression. Peace is the generous, tranquil contribution of all to the good of all. Peace is dynamism. Peace is generosity. It is right and it is duty. **(Archbishop Oscar Romero)**

41. Every act of war that, in any way, displaces people from their natural settlement, destroys their property and lives, is a crime against God and humans; such acts we must strictly stand against in words, thoughts and actions.

## **TEXT MESSAGES**

1. Only in a climate of Peace can right be recognized, can justice advance, can freedom breathe. If, then, such is the meaning of Peace, if such is the value of Peace, then Peace is a duty.
2. “A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace” **(James, 3:18)**. The implication therefore is that in working for peace we grow in righteousness.
3. The peace the Lord has bequeathed unto us is such that must endear us to seek its fruition everywhere and at all costs - no price can be too precious for peace.
4. It is quite remarkable that peace is the third of the fruits of the Spirit listed in Gal. 5, and even more remarkable that against such fruits there is no law.

5. Even the violent can be taught the strength of overcoming evil with good by withholding the rod of revenge. What else could Jesus have meant by the command to 'turn the other cheek'!
6. Fostering the core values upon which peace is built begins fundamentally with setting the categories of the mind right.
7. As Christians, it is in gazing upon the Crucified Christ that we are imbued with the courage and confidence to forgive and love even when it is most difficult.
8. When the peacemakers are called the children of God, it is to denote that peacemaking is an attribute that makes us like God and that is our vocation as Christians - to be like God.
9. It is not enough to merely pray for peace when we have not opened the way for it, or to merely work for it when we have not prayed for it.
10. Our personal experience of peacemaking is a partaking in the peacemaking work of Christ on the cross.
11. Prayer makes the ground fertile for peace while works for peace bring to activity the grace God gives for peace.
12. Peace is not a state we attain but something we must continually strive for.
13. We must believe that God is the Father of all, is above all, through all, and in all. In this belief we can ground our need to be at peace with all.
14. As it remains that everyday life is a sphere of God's revelation, so can we find Him even in the contradicting personalities we meet; God is there! Yes, He is.
15. To seek peace is not to avoid all conflict but to be ready to forbear, negotiate and reconcile.
16. Peace is not something that happens but rather a situation that arises when justice happens.

17. Seeking peace must move us to deal with our biases by extending our awareness of ourselves and others.
18. If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other - that man, that woman, that child is my brother or my sister.
19. "Violence is a lie, for it goes against the truth of our faith, the truth of our humanity. Violence destroys what it claims to defend: the dignity, the life, the freedom of human beings"
20. When the common good is promoted at every level, peace is promoted.
21. Be an apostle of peace: you need peace, your family needs peace, your country needs peace, and the world needs peace.
22. Man and woman made in the image of God possess sacredness and integrity of creation and can enjoy the same in peace.
23. No peaceful society can afford to neglect respect for life - no society can be peaceful unless it values the sacredness of life.
24. If you want peace, respect the conscience of every person. Conscience is the ability to judge and act according to the law. Love God and love your neighbor as yourself
25. The law of love is to be practiced, cultivated, and translated in concrete actions of reaching out to the other irrespective of ethnic or religious persuasion.
26. Love and peace are inseparable and mutually inclusive. Peace cannot be sustained without love; love if sown in truth gives birth to peace.
27. Peace is everyone's business. Hold back that hateful word, that inciting utterance - sow peace all around you, for what you sow that you shall reap.
28. Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the sons and daughters of God. Children of God must bring forth peace in our troubled world. Be a true child of God, be a peacemaker.

29. Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love - be committed to peace with great love.
30. Peace, like war must be waged. Be committed to peace today. Violence destroys, peace builds.
31. Those who have tasted times and seasons know this too well that the aftermath of war is despair but peace gives hope.
32. In His days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.
33. Peace cannot be kept by force, but by understanding. We must strive to tie knots of mutual understanding in daily life.
34. Realities and facts that are self-evident are never self-executing. If we need peace we must work for it.
35. Our span is 70 years, or 80 for those who are strong. Life is short and has troubles on its own. Give progress a chance.
36. Blessed are the peacemakers, they are indeed sons and daughters of God. **(Mt 5:9)**
37. The lovers of peace will live secure for from then on the Lord will extend his power to the ends of their land. He himself will be there peace. **Cf. Micah 5:4**
38. God takes life's pieces and gives us unbroken peace; let us return to God even in our brokenness.
39. He is the happiest, be he a king or a peasant who finds peace in his house. Let's be happy let's make peace.
40. Utter peace is the countenance of one whose life is hidden in God.
41. The angelic song that ushered Christ into the world was a song of peace, the legacy he bequeathed to us before he ascended to the Father was peace. Embrace peace.
42. If the basis of peace is God, the secret of peace is trust.

43. The one who needs peace must be willing to talk with his or her enemy.
44. No one is too weak, too vile, too unimportant, to be used as God's instrument of peace.
45. God, open my eyes and my heart that I may this coming day be able to see what work of peace I can do for You, amen.
46. Peace is a precious gift from God; lets open our hearts to receive it.
47. One of the deepest human desires and needs is to live in peace, to be in peace, but hatred, fear and violence seem so prevalent. Lets stand up and be counted in the cause of peace.
48. Let's talk about promoting peace so that society itself may enjoy the benefit of justice and peace which results from humanity's faithfulness to God and to God's Holy Will.
49. God does not wish us to remember what He is willing to forget, let's bury the hatchet and live together as one.
50. Dialogue and reconciliation will cure hurts; diatribe and retaliation open fresh wounds.
51. Unless you are deliberately kind to every creature, you will often be cruel to many. Making peace is also a matter of decision.
52. Little strokes fell great oaks, just as little messages of peace will make great impacts.
53. Working for peace includes any exercise of authority with wisdom and genuine love.
54. Peace is not made at the council table or by treatise, but in the heart of human beings. **(Herbert Hoover)**
55. An oriental proverb says that a bad peace is better than a good war.
56. Until we extend our circle of compassion to include all living things, we will not ourselves find peace.

57. We continue to love the other even when we do not feel loved. By this all people will know you are my disciples.
58. Only in love and peace can we be each other's keeper. You cannot keep your brother or sister with violence.
59. For hate return love, injury pardon, and sorrow give joy and for hopelessness give hope.
60. Peace on earth, goodwill to all people who are God's friends. Peace is our identity.
61. We must daily ask God to give us inner peace so that we may share it all around us.
62. In a society where peace and harmony are lacking because of tension generated by religious or political reasons, the environment needed for progress will be lacking.
63. Peace is a goal which we must strive for incessantly in our personal and family relationships, and in a wider context, in our world politics.
64. Peace is God's gift to us. If we have lost it temporarily and we ask God in faith, He will give it back to us.
65. Dialogue is more civilized than the resort to violent behaviour in the name of defending one's religion.
66. The culture of solidarity is closely connected with the value of peace.
67. Respect for the dignity of the human person is fundamental for the realization of peace, but the dignity of humankind is more threatened than ever by misguided use of science and technology and by aberrant ideology. **(Benedict XVI)**
68. Religion is for peace, while politics is for social progress and good governance.
69. True peace, genuine reconciliation and the healing of wounded hearts will become a reality for all of us.
70. Peace is God's gift to humanity. God's desire is peace for all, not war.

71. No matter how peace-loving people in a given society are, they could exhibit violent tendencies when some core values are tempered with.
72. Peace is not merely a gift to be received: it is also a task to be undertaken.
73. Make peace your motto: allow yourself to be guided by the constant thought of peace..
74. Peace is not something readymade; it comes from your action.
75. In searching for peace, it is better to try and be disappointed, than not to try at all.
76. When you stop wishing and working for war, you give room for peace.
77. Peace is not the suppression of our desire for things or status, but rather the fulfillment of our deepest needs.
78. The peace which can and must be built in this world is the peace of right order.
79. The pillars of true peace are justice and that form of love which is forgiveness.
80. PEACE, People Evenly Appreciating Common descent from God in existence
81. We will have peace when men and women embrace one another in fraternal understanding and mutual trust.
82. Instead of healing, what violence does is rob the world of peace and development. When people are killed, property destroyed, then hate and crave for vengeance is born.
83. Life is of opposites; we must necessarily fall for a side and live with the consequences: love or hate, tolerance or prejudice, peace or war.
84. There would not be a better place than the earth if all minds reflect peace, all senses feel peace, and all acts radiate peace.

85. The peace we desire depends on our effort to earn it - when we undermine justice, we damage peace; when we bolster justice, we build peace.
86. Since Christ is the prince of peace, whoever has Him has peace; whoever needs Christ needs peace.
87. The guiltiest enemy we should crave to ever kill for peace is the desire to kill for peace. For every time we kill fellow human beings, we move further away from the peace we seek.
88. It is good to speak of peace. It is better to stand for peace. It is best to live peace. When peace becomes our way of life, we make the world a home for all.
89. It is easier to want peace than to work for peace.
90. There will be no peace without selflessness and individual sacrifice.
91. Love, they say, conquers all. If so, let us conquer violence with love that is boundless; a love that knows neither race nor religion, but is all embracing and includes all.
92. An underdeveloped community is a community of war and chaos; a developed community is a community of peace.
93. The best vengeance to grant an offender is forgiveness; it shows how great the giver is.
94. The journey of peace is a journey of a lifetime; people who died in peace lived in peace.
95. Instead of looking out for peace, the wise person looks in for peace. The peace an individual creates is his or her authentic gift to humankind.
96. War is never a mutual pick: it is a choice of one and a defense of the other. Peace is always a mutual pick.
97. I look forward to a world which would portray how much we are tired of that which expels peace from our lives and society.

98. Humanity comes first before race or religion or ethnicity. The love for humanity masks the differences in race, religion and ethnicity.
99. There could be a choice to make between peace and war; the best replacement for war is peace, but peace has no replacement.
100. Retaliation could never lead to peace. Christ never fought those who gave Him the Cross, He forgave them and He was still glorified.
101. Whatever is worth fighting for is worth dialoguing about. The peace way is dialogue; it is more affordable than violence.
102. We should love neither because one is Christian no Muslim but because we all are human and we deserve a peaceful home.
103. The fruits of peace: serenity, integration and development. The fruits of war: agitation, discrimination and decay.

## ARTICLES

### *ARTICLE 1: THE CENTRALITY OF PEACE TO THE CHRISTIAN MESSAGE*

When it is understood that the whole essence of Christ's coming is to restore all things in Christ, such understanding gives us the best disposition to unravel the implications of this for humanity in all its spheres. The words of St. Paul are not to be taken with a pinch of salt when he says: "...that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us (2Cor. 5:19). In these words are expressed the fundamental reason why God took flesh, namely, to restore all things in Christ. The fractured story of human history was to be repaired and so retold by the broken body of Christ on the tree of the cross. It is against this backdrop that this article sets to cast light on the centrality of peace to the Christian message. God was not only reconciling us to himself but also reconciling us to ourselves.

Already, part of the prophecies that announced the coming of Christ indicated that he shall be called the Prince of Peace. At his birth too, the shepherds sang, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those who are God's friends (Lk. 1:14) At the fall, the disobedience of our first parents disrupted the harmony of the entirety of creation. At the incarnation, that peace was announced and on the cross it was concretely accomplished. The prophecy of Isa. 53 makes a more vivid picture of this

Peace mission of Christ. There the prophet describes God's Suffering Servant, "a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief" (Isa 53:3). This Servant suffers, not because of his own sins, but so that we might be forgiven for our sins. "But he was wounded and crushed for our sins. He was beaten that we might have peace. He was whipped, and we were healed!" (Isa 53:5). God would restore peace on earth, but only through one who took upon himself the penalty for human sin. At his resurrection, peace was his first gift and greeting to his fearful disciples, as if to say: having conquered death I now bring you the peace I have won for you.

A very important dimension to this peace is its implication for the world. Granted that Jesus heals the intimate fellowship between us and God, he does not stop at that. In fact, he restores our peace with God so as to restore our peace with one another. St Paul quite understood this clearly and so he plainly exclaimed "For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is the hostility between us. The hostility between the Jews and Gentiles was not a mild one. Yet it became the example put forward by the apostle to designate the peace Jesus brought for us. In no way is this universal dimension of Jesus' mission of peace contradicted by the Gospel periscope that reads: "Do you think that I have come to bring peace on earth? No, I have come to bring strife and division! From now on families will be split apart, three in favor of me, and two against. There will be a division between father and son, mother and daughter, mother-in-law and daughter-in-law" (Luke 12:52-53). This passage rather casts light to the nature of the peace Christ seeks to establish on earth. It is not to be "as the world gives". It is to be his type of peace. Peace that goes beyond mere superficiality. One that must renounce and challenge the very structures of injustices and oppression. No longer will peace be understood as absence of war even when this is achieved by oppression and despotism. His peace is the true peace that springs from within and overflows beyond boundaries of ethnicism, religion or class.

St Paul went further to say that Jesus has entrusted the message of reconciliation to us. Thus, we are to realize our vocation as Christians by becoming like God. We are to become like God by becoming sons and daughters of God. And it is rightly said of the peacemakers that they shall be called sons and daughters of God. (Matt. 5:9). We are to embark on this peace mission of Christ by doing our part to become the forgiving and patient Christ in our homes and communities. But like Christ also, we are not to settle with the peace that compromises and condoles evil. We must become advocates of those values that promote justices and righteousness which are the building bricks for peace building. This mission of peace is so

Central to the message of Christianity that we are not left with options- we are either Christians by virtue of which we are peacemakers or we are not Christians at all.

## ***ARTICLE 2: ADVOCACY FOR PEACE: A Christian Duty and Virtue***

“Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth” (Lk. 2:14). Vicesimus Knox rightly calls this song of the angels at the birth of Jesus the Christian motto. It reveals right from the onset a key component of Jesus' purpose and mission earth peace. Indeed Jesus came to “guide our feet into the way of peace” (Lk 1:79). In other words, Jesus came as a “peacemaker”. Any attempt to separate Christianity from the ideas of peace and peacemaking would be equivalent to removing Christ from Christianity.

The Bible begins with God's masterpiece: “a peaceful paradise” and when this peace was lost, God did not rest, he kept promising and working towards the restoration of peace, fulfilled in the person of Jesus, who came to restore peace between creatures and the Creator (and consequently, among humans) and to promote the kingdom of God, which is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost (Rom 14:17). This places peace at the core our identity as Christians and makes peace not only a crucial virtue to strive for, but, promotion of peace our duty. If Christ was all about peace, it follows that all Christians should also be all about peace, because our duty is to carry on with his mission on earth and, as Martin Luther said, “it is the duty of every Christian to be Christ to his neighbor”. And Jesus himself did not mince words when he said that blessed are the peace makers for they can definitely consider themselves children of God (Mat. 5:9).

The peace we are called to promote as Christians is a profound one. It is rooted in the understanding of peace captured by the Hebrew (Old Testament) word *shalom*. This connotes an abundance of peace (Ps 37:11) which includes wholeness and prosperity amongst other things. But more importantly, peace for Christians includes justice and righteousness (Isaiah 32:15-17). This has to do with rights, and life-promoting relationships not only with God but with others, everyone around us. And following the example of Christ who by his death, brought an end to all forms of exclusion, demolished the walls of hatred and aggression that divide us, and made peace among us (Eph. 2:14-16).

It is sad, but true, therefore, that something is amiss with our practice of Christianity if there is no peace in our societies. Mahatma Gandhi was decrying this sad reality when he said that, *“You Christians look after a document (the Bible) containing enough dynamite to blow all civilization to pieces, turn the world upside down and bring peace to a battle-torn planet. But you treat it as though it is nothing more than a piece of literature”*

It is sometimes very challenging sometimes and very difficult to live up to this Christian duty to promote peace, especially when we believe that we are being victimized or placed in very unfair positions. Jean Vanier in his book *Finding Peace* also remarked that “it may be easy to be a lover of peace, but it is more difficult to be a worker for peace, a maker of peace...sometimes all our effort appear futile” but this makes our call more urgent and relevant. (Better Yourself Books 2008, 72) And Jesus our model did not only ask us to promote peace but provided us with a strategy in such situations that we must “turn the other cheek”. This was not to encourage passivity, but a non-violent, bold and active stance against all kinds of violence in a way that shows that we Christians are different, we do not respond to violence and injustices with violence but we respond in ways that are peaceful, yet very strong and effective, as Christ taught us.

As hinted earlier, peace is strongly tied to right relationships, justice, political stability, amongst other things. This creates many openings through which we can actively promote peace as Christians and as responsible citizen of our nation. And whatever our involvements in life is, one thing that must never compromise is the fact that peace is at the center of our identity and duty as Christians, and we must create opportunities to fulfill this Christian duty in our daily lives, for “the more we sweat in peace, the less we bleed in war” V.L. Pandit.

### ***ARTICLE 3: SOLIDARITY A VERITABLE TOOL FOR PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE AMONG NIGERIANS.***

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

Humans are social beings; as such no human being can live in isolation, we might have originated from different ancestors, speak different languages, having different modes of culture and faith expression et cetera, we still need one another. There is indeed unity in diversity. The psalmist says:

“Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity” -Psalm 133. The implication of this verse of the bible is peaceful co-existence which is done in love. In 1 John 4:7-8, we are encouraged: “Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love”. From the history of Nigeria, religious conflicts are among the greatest tragedies that have befallen the nation. They are often the bloodiest, the longest and the most bitterly fought because each person in the conflict sincerely believes that a heavenly reward awaits him/her if he loses his life. This paper will therefore present the necessity for solidarity among Nigerians for peaceful coexistence.

### ***THE PRINCIPLE OF SOLIDARITY:***

The word solidarity comes from the French *solidarite* meaning “mutual responsibility.”The interdependence we share with our fellow human beings demands that we take responsibility for them in accordance with the measure of what we have been given by God. Much that can be said about the importance of the principle of solidarity can be appreciated and found meaningful even by people who have no particular faith expression. For Christians though, its importance begins with its origins. The principle of solidarity has its roots in the scriptures. The book of Deuteronomy tells us: 'Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, “open your hand to the poor and needy neighbour in your land. (Deut.15:11)

In Acts 11:26-27, the early believers were called CHRISTIANS in Antioch because of the communal life they embraced. They propagated the message of Christ through their lives. They saw justice (solidarity) as linked more closely with love than law- they saw it as grounded in the deeds of Christ. We must recognize the fact that every single person, family and group has something original to offer to the community. As stated by the Catechism of the Catholic Church : 'we all have potential inscribed in our nature, and meaningful work is a way that we can fulfill that potential, but only if we're given the chance.'(Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2428).

The virtue of solidarity is quite demanding. Echoing the Golden Rule of the gospels it 'translates into the willingness to give oneself for the good of one's neighbour, beyond any individual or particular interest (Compendium of Social Doctrines of the Church, 194). The underlying factors of the principles of solidarity are evident: tolerance, and mutual respect; without these, there can't be peace in our nation.

### ***THE PROBLEMS MILITATING AGAINST PEACEFUL-COEXISTENCE:***

Illiteracy: Hosea 4:6 puts it in clear terms that: "my people perish for lack of knowledge". Lack or inadequate awareness of one's religion or culture or that of another party can constitute a barrier to harmonious living. A good understanding of another person's religion can give room to more knowledge in an individual's religion

Fundamentalism: Holding religious teachings to the extreme. Wrong interpretations of texts from sacred books can be harmful.

Politicizing religion: In Nigeria, many people hardly differentiate between religion and politics especially when it comes to elections and government. The misunderstanding of the two has over the years led to loss of lives and properties

Discrimination: In some places in Nigeria, segregation based on religion is evident. In some government and private institutions, jobs and admissions are given not based on qualification but on religious grounds. Marginalization and domination are also evident in some regions in Nigeria.

Prejudices and biases: These are judgments or opinions made about others without adequate knowledge. It can also be seen as intolerance or hatred of other.

### ***THE WAY FORWARD TOWARDS PEACE:***

The primary basis of unity and peaceful coexistence should be that we are all rational human beings created by the same God. 'So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them' (Gen. 1-27).

We are all Nigerians: As Nigerians who share the same geographical location, we are bound to work towards the peaceful coexistence of all.

This can be achieved through religious tolerance and through mature and healthy discussions.

**Organization of Seminars and Conferences:** There is need for public inter-religious and inter-cultural conferences, workshops and seminars. This will be a forum for deepening our oneness and belief in the One God. It will also be an opportunity to clear some misconceptions concerning one's faith. It has to be done with mutual respect and a view to understand the other better.

**Religious leaders:** The religious leaders of the two major religions in Nigeria (Islam and Christianity) should stand out as the messengers of truth. They should not allow themselves to be used by those who do not have the good of the country at heart. No doubt, religion is a powerful force. (Ndubisi, 2012: 172-173)

**Mutual Understanding and Tolerance:** There can't be progress in the face of mutual suspicion. Putting the past quarrels and violence behind with the commitment to correct past errors can be a good move towards peaceful living. The need to tolerate each other's religion

**The Mass Media:** The Mass Media can also serve an invaluable tool for fostering peace among people with different cultures and faith expressions when properly harnessed. Positive values and teachings about religions should be promoted and prejudices and biases avoided

In his book the *Voice of the Bishop*, Bishop Bagobiri Joseph of the diocese of Kafachan listed what he termed as the Decalogue for Peace. For the purpose of this work, I will list a few of them.

1. We commit ourselves to frank and patient dialogue, refusing to consider our differences as an insurmountable barrier, but recognizing instead that to encounter the diversity of others can become an opportunity for greater and reciprocal understanding.
2. We commit ourselves to forgiving one another for past and present errors and prejudices and to learn from the past that peace without justice is no true peace
3. We commit ourselves to urging leaders of nations to make and consolidate, on the national and international levels, a world of solidarity and peace based on justice.

## **CONCLUSION:**

Christianity as a religion encourages the peaceful co-existence of all peoples of the world Muslims and Christians alike because we are all

created by one Supreme Being God. We cannot fulfill this task (peaceful coexistence) expected of us in the midst of turmoil, confusion and bloodshed. We can only attain great heights in all sectors when there is order. We appeal to all to pray relentlessly for peace, unity and stability in our country Nigeria and in the spirit of solidarity cooperate with one another and the government for the common good of all. Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain (Psalm 127:1)

#### ***ARTICLE 4: THE PEACE' LINE OF ATTACK***

In as much as people generally prefer to identify peace as the “absence of war, catastrophe, disaster and all forms of violence, peace, in a deeper sense, could be viewed from the perspective of being the tranquility of a just and dynamic order of liberty” (Peschke, 1996, 630) “it is the right relationship between God and human, and between human and human...” (Pazhayampallil, 1977, 1296).

Peace is a very complex reality which always proves difficult for people to embrace its understanding, yet the most necessary need in every society. It is religious as well as secular: if peace, to a great deal, expresses a depth union between God and humankind, and one presents self as of God, the most convincing virtue to prove this relationship with God is through the ray of peace. On the secular part, if one truly claims to be a social being who appreciates development, there is but one path, the peace which denotes absence of war, catastrophe, disaster and all other forms of violence.

Peace goes beyond that which the eye or any of the external sense organ could identify and proclaim as serene. On the start, no one can ever give what she/he does not have; this goes a long way to stand for the fact that peace can only be attributed to one who truly possesses it from the soul, who accepts its need in the mind and believes it to be the universal need of all humans, thus embarks in a conscious crave to spread its embrace beyond one's soul and mind. Disseminating peace should be a task to all who believe in the prophecy of Isaiah announcing that “Christ is the prince of peace”. (9:6) Although salvation of all souls was the summary of the purpose of his coming to the world in the form of man, this he had to achieve through sharing with the rest of mankind a part of his essence peace, thereby uniting a people who believe in him, and who agree to take up from where he tasks them to so that

they too would become fully part of him in peace and triumph.

I describe peace as a crop, which can be fully cultivated on a soil possessing love, respect, and tolerance as its condiments. These are virtues that are built from within, then expressed in acts. The call to possess these has, first, been demonstrated by God for he never destroyed humanity for the endless moments of dishonesty it continued to show to Him. Instead He loves us more: by coming down in the form of man to save us all (Phil. 2:7), He respects us more: by giving up his life so that we may ever be at peace with Him; and He tolerates us more: by His never-ending forgiveness shown us all the time we approach him for pardon. Why, then, can we not learn to offer to everyone else this tri gifts who are the tri-dependent parents of peace?

If God is truly our source and our end; if we truly believe God created us in his image and likeness it, therefore, means that myself, as well as every other human being shares the same kind of God's image and likeness. True love, respect and tolerance would propel us to grand to all other persons the same kind of love, respect and tolerance we would grant ourselves; and would wish others to grant to us. Thus, every other person I see is a reflection of myself, I would not make life miserable for her/him; I would help her/him grow; I will not destroy her/him, or even her/his belongings. This is because "I am him/her", and "he/she is God".

When wronged, would violent vengeance make up for the wrong done or would love, respect and tolerance help out? Violence is expressed through vandalism, murder, and hurt. These are sure ways to wanton destructions and societal decay. Whereas, when out of love, respect and tolerance one is forgiven for a wrong done, would that person not learn that she/he is loved, and given the chance to improve? Violence has never solved a problem; instead it causes further pain and loss of serenity in a society.

Every wrong is committed so that there would be forgiveness; every forgiveness is granted so that there would be peace, and every peace is achieved through love, respect and tolerance. All we need for a society of peace is the decision to stay as such. Huge amount of moneys and man-power are committed to the preparation for war, which is claimed to be a way for peace, but the true way of peace is mutual respect and dialogue; through these peace can be achieved serenely, with enough resources to take care of the poor of the society rather than render more people poor through war and other forms of violence.

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## **CHAPTER 3: PEACE MESSAGES FROM ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE**

By Mustapha Hussain Isma'il, PhD

### **Introduction**

Nigeria is a multi-ethnic and religious, socio-economic and cultural set-up. Hundreds of ethnic groups speaking different languages live together in a geographical area known today as Nigeria. In pre-colonial era, they lived sparsely in ethno-tribal entities often brought in contact by socio-economic and commercial imperatives until when colonialism, at the end of the nineteenth century AD brought them together in an amalgamation and divided into three regions, North, East and South for political and administrative purposes. Today Nigeria is divided into six geo-political zones for the same purposes. Efforts have consciously and unconsciously been made to enhance integration, politically, economically, culturally and religiously by government policies and their implementations. Different ethnic groups travel to different areas and locations to exchange commodities and services. In the process they migrate and settle in those other parts of the country. Sometimes disputes and conflicts occur caused mainly by bad governance, corruption and poverty, but which assume religious and ethnic dimensions.

This paper seeks to present an Islamic perspective on peace and National unity, based on quotations from the Noble Qur'an and authentic prophetic traditions. It consists of three sections. Section one is a presentation on an Islamic perspective on the importance of peace, while the second section attempt to present an Islamic perspective on the importance of National unity. The third section takes the form of quotations from the noble Qur'an and authentic prophetic traditions which promote peace, National unity, and discourage violence, conflicts and disharmony meant for twitters.

### **Section III**

#### **Twitters on an Islamic perspective on the importance of peace and national unity**

National unity:

Allah (SWT) says: And hold fast, all together, by the rope which Allah (Stretches out for you), and be not divided among yourselves (Q3:103) and remember with gratitude, Allah's favour on you, for you were enemies and

He joined your hearts in love, so that by His grace, you became brethren (brothers) (Q3:103) and you were on the brink of the pit of fire, and He saved you from it, thus, does Allah make His signs clear to you that you may be guided (Q3:103)

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) says:

· Al-jama'ah (coming together, company with others) is blessing and division is torment (silsilatu al-Ahadith as-sahihah, P 276, Vol. 2)

Religious differences are inevitable so live with them in peace Allah (SWT) says:

If your lord had so willed, He would have made mankind one people (Nation), but they will not cease to dispute (differ) (Q11:118) Except those on whom your lord bestowed His mercy: and for this did He create them, "I will fill Hell with Jinns and people all together" (Q11:119)

If Allah had so willed, He could have made them a single people, but He admits whom He will to His mercy, and the wrongdoers will have no protector nor helper. (Q42:08)

Shunning corruption Allah (SWT) says:

And do not spread corruption on in the land after it has been set in good order, but call on Him with fear and longing (in your heart), for the mercy of Allah is (always) near to those who do good. (Q7:56)

To the Madyan people we sent Shu'aib, one of their brethren. He said, "O my people worship Allah, you have no other god but Him, Now has come unto you a clear (sign) from your Lord. Give just measure and weight, and do not withhold from the people the things that are their due, and do no corruption (mischief) in the land after it has been set in order, that will be best for you, if you have faith (Q7:85)

Self-help association and cooperation:

And help you one another, in righteousness [in doing good things] And piety, but help you not one another in sin and rancor (aggression) fear Allah, for Allah is strict in punishment. (Q5:02)

Peaceful co-existence between Muslims, Christians and Jews Allah (SWT) says:

This day (all) things good and pure are made Lawful unto you, and the food

of the people of the book is lawful unto you and your food is lawful unto them. (Lawful unto you in marriage) are the chaste women from the believers and the chaste women from the people of the book revealed before your time [Christians and Jews] when you give them their due dowers, and desire chastity not lewdness, and not taking [them as girl friends]. Whosoever rejects faith, fruitless is his work, and in the hereafter he will be in the ranks of the losers (Q5:05)

Injustice and aggression:

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) reported that Allah (SWT) said: “O my servants! I verily forbid injustice [wrong doing, ill treatment, oppression, tyranny, inequity] unto myself, and made it unlawful among you, therefore, do not be unjust to one another.... (Muslim, Hadith No 2577)

Justice and fear treatment to others Allah (SWT) says:

O you who believe! Stand out firmly for Allah, as witnesses to fair dealing, and let not the hatred of others to you make you swerve to wrong and depart from justice, be just, that is next to piety, and fear Allah, for Allah is well acquainted with all that you do. (Q5:08).

Justice in governance and outside it Allah (SWT) says:

You who believe! Stand out firmly for justice, as witnesses to Allah, even as against yourselves, or your parents, or your kin, whether it be (against) rich or poor, for Allah can best protect both. Follow not the lust (of your hearts) lest you swerve, and if you distort (justice) or decline to do justice, verily Allah is well acquainted with all that you do (Q4:135)

Mediation and reconciliation Prophet Muhammad (SAW) says:

He is not a liar he who reconciles (mediates) between people and he says good, or extends good (words) (Tuhfatul ahwazi vol.6, p.46)

Avoiding inflicting harm and Hardship to others Prophet Muhammad (SAW) says:

Whoever inflicts harm (to others) Allah will inflict harm on him, and whoever causes hardship to others, Allah will cause hardship to him. (Tuhufatul ahwazi, vol 6, p 47)

Trustworthiness and avoiding wrong -doing Prophet Muhammad (SAW) says:

A [true] believer is he whom people can trust their money and lives to, and a [true] immigrant is he who migrates from mistakes and sins (Ibn Majah, Hadith No 3934, p19)

Responsive governance:

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said: whoever is put in charge of the affairs of the Muslims by Allah, and he barricade himself from their needs and wants Allah will barricade Himself from his needs and wants, on the Day of judgment. (Abudawood & Tirmizi (in Riadudd saliheen, Babu Amri wulatil arnri)

Avoiding anger, for it leads to irrationality

A man said to the Prophet (SAW): Advice me. He said: Do not be angry” he repeated several times, He [the Prophet] said “Do not be angry” he repeated several times, He [the Prophet] said: “Do not be angry” (Bukhari)

Spirit of togetherness:

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said “Do not cut off from one another, and do not turn your back at one another, and do not envy one another, and be Allah's servants, brothers to one another. It is unlawful for a Muslim to desert his brother for more than three (days).

Peace and forgiveness Prophet Muhammad (SAW) says:

Belief is [all about] patience and forgiveness (Silsilatul al ahadith as-salihah, vol 2, p 87)

Should I not inform you about who is a believer? He is whom people trust to their property (money) and their lives. And a Muslim is he whom people are safe from his tongue and hands, and a Mujahid (striver) is he who struggles which himself in obeying Allah, and an immigrant is he who migrates from mistakes and sins. (Silsilatul al-Ahadith as sahihal, vol 2, p81)

Patience in interaction with other people Prophet Muhammad ( S A W )

s a y s :  
The believer is he who intermingles with people and is patient with their offences. He is better than he who does not intermingle with people and does not exercise patience with their offences. (Silsilatul al Ahadith as-

salihah, vol 2, p. 652)

Forming association for public good Prophet Muhammad (SAW) says:

The believer is one that associates (with others) and is associated with, and there is nothing good in him he who does not associate with others and is not associate (with) and the best of people is he who most useful to people. (Silsilatul al Ahadith as salihah, vol 1, p. 712)

Greeting and spreading peace:

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said.

You will not enter the paradise until you believe, and you will not be believers until you love one another. Should I not guide you to something that if you do it, you will love one another? Spread peace (Salam) [meaning greet one another when you meet] (Muslim, Kitabul Iman, Riadhus Saliheen KitabusSalam. P 661)

Love for others what you love for yourself Prophet Muhammad (SAW) says:

None of you will be a [true] believer until he loves for his fellow brother what he loves for himself. (An-nasa'i hadith No 5049, p1154)

Love for people what you love for yourself. (Silsilatul ahadith as-sahilah, vol. 1 p112)

Treating Non Muslim Justly Prophet Muhammad (SAW) says:

Attention! Whoever treated a Muahid (a non-Muslim) living in peace with Muslims unjustly or cheated him or burdened him with more than he can bear, or took something from him without his consent, I am his defender on the Day of Judgment (Silsitatu al-ahadith as- sahihah vol. 1 p 729)

Justice Prophet Muhammad (SAW) says:

If you judge, be just (Silsitatu al-ahadith as- sahihah vol 1 p761)

Peace Prophet Muhammad (SAW) says:

As-salam, (peace) is one of Allah's names he puts it on earth, therefore, spread it among yourselves (Silsitatu al-ahadith as-sahilah vol 1 p. 184)

Appreciating good from others Prophet Muhammad (SAW) says:

The most thankful to Allah is the most thankful to people. (Silsitatu al-ahadith as- sahihah vol. 1, p702)

He will not thank God he who does not thank people. (Silsitatu al-ahadith as- sahihah vol. 1, p702)

Extending helping hand to others, self-restraint and forgiveness Allah (SWT) says:

Those who spend (freely) whether in prosperity or in adversity, who restrain anger, and pardon (all) men, for Allah loves those who do good (Q3:134)

But if indeed any show patience and forgive, that would truly be an exercise of courageous will and resolution in the conduct of affairs Q42:43

National Unity Allah (SWT) says:

And obey Allah and His messenger, and fall into no disputes, lest you lose heart (fail) and your power depart, and be patient and persevering, for Allah is with those who patiently persevere. Q8:46

Differences are inevitable, tolerate and bear with them Allah (SWT) says:

If your Lord had so willed, He could have made mankind one people, but they will not cease to dispute, (Q11:118) Except those on whom your Lord has bestowed His mercy, and for this did He create them, and the word of your Lord shall be fulfilled, "I will fill Hell with Jinns and people all together. (Q11:119).

But in Allah's plan man has been given a measure of free-will, and this makes differences inevitable (YusufAli, P542)

Saving lives and property:

Prophet Muhammad gave a sermon at his last hajj and he said among other things:

Verily your blood and your money (property) are forbidden like the sanctity of this day of yours, in this month of yours, in this country of yours. Attention! Verily, anything of the Jahiliyya period (era of ignorance) is put under my two feet. And the jahiliyya blood is rid of (forfeited)... (Hadith 3074), ibn majah

Saving lives not destroying them Allah (SWT) says:

..if anyone slew a person, unless it be for murder or for spreading mischief in the land, it would be as if he slew the whole people. And if anyone saved a life, it would be as if he saved the life of the whole people ... (Q5:32)

Do not kill yourselves, for verily Allah has been to you the most merciful.

(Q4:29) Adverse effects of conflict Allah (SWT) says:

And tumult (conflict) is worse than killing cQ2:191)

Whoever points an iron (Sword) to his brother is cursed by the Angels. (Tirmizi, Hadith No 2162)

Togetherness:

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said:

Do not hate one another, do not desert one another, do not turn your back at one another, do not envy one another (Mutual envy), be Allah's servants and brother to one another as Allah commanded you. It is unlawful for a Muslim to desert his brother for three days. (Sahihu al-jamiu as sagir wa ziyadatuhu, vol 2, p1 208)

Selfishness and blood-letting:

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said: fear injustice for injustice is darkness on the Day of Judgment and, and fear stinginess (selfishness, niggardliness) for stinginess destroyed those before you, it led them to shedding their blood, and they, made their forbidden things lawful. (silsilatu al-ahadith as-ssahilahah, Vol 2, P538)

Practices that cause conflicts, Allah (SWT) says:

O you who believe! Avoid suspicion as much as possible), for suspicion in some cases is a sin, and spy not on each other, nor speak ill of each other behind their backs. Would any of you like to eat the flesh of his dead brother? Nay! You Would abhor it, but fear Allah, for Allah is oft- Returning, most Merciful (Q49"12)

National Unity Allah (SWT) says:

And hold fast, all together, by the rope which Allah (stretches out for you) and be not divided among yourselves, and remember with gratitude Allah's favour on you, for you were enemies and He joined your hearts in love, so that by His grace, you became brothers, and you were on the brink of the pit of fire, and He saved you from it. Thus Allah makes His signs clear to you, that you may be guided. (Q3:103)

Disunity Allah (SWT) says:

Be not like those who are divided among themselves and fall into deputations after receiving clear signs, for them is a dreadful punishment. (Q3:105)

National Unity Allah (SWT) says:

This is your ummah (nation) it is one nation, and I am your Lord and cherisher, therefore, serve me. (Q21”92)

Forgiveness and self-restraint Allah (SWT) says:

Hold to forgiveness, command what is right, and turn away from the ignorant (Q7:199) and if an incitement from the Satan assails your mind, seek refuge with Allah, for He hears and knows all things (Q7:200)

Extending Helping hand and forgiveness Allah (SWT) says:

Let not those among you who are endued with grace and amplitude of means resolve by oath, against helping their kinsmen, those in want, and those who have left their homes in Allah's cause, let them forgive and overlook, do you not wish that Allah should forgive you? For Allah is all Forgiving Most Merciful (Q24:22)

Social work and civil society activities Allah (SWT) says:

Let there arise out of you a band of people inviting to all that is good, enjoining what is right and forbidding what is wrong, they are the ones to attain prosperity (felicity) Q3: 104)

Disunity Allah (SWT) says:

Be not like those who are divided amongst themselves and fall into disputations after receiving clear signs for them is a dreadful punishment (Q3:105)

Doing good to others Allah (SWT) says:

On those who believe and work deeds of righteousness will (Allah the Most Gracious bestows love (Q19:96)

“Godness breeds love And peace” and sin breeds hatred and contention

(Y. Au, P 763)

Taking things easy:

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said: Verily, the religion (of Islam) is easy, and no one will make it difficult except it subdues him...

Respect others and Avoid ridiculing them Allah (SWT) says:

O you who believe! Let not some men among you laugh at others it may be that the (latter) are better than the former. Nor let some women laugh at others, it may be that the latter are better than the former. And nor defame nor be sarcastic to each other, nor call each other by (offensive) nicknames. Illseeming is a name connoting wickedness, (to be used of one) after he has believed, and those who do not desist are indeed the wrongdoers (Q49:11)

Peace is Allah's name:

Verily, assalam (peace) is one of Allah's names He put it on earth, therefore, spread peace among yourselves. (silsilatu al-Ahadith as-sahihal, Vol.1 p.308)

Integrity:

The best of people is anyone with pure (liberal) heart and truthful tongue. They said the one with truthful tongue we know him, but who is the one with pure (liberal) heart? He said, "He is the pious, the clean, no sin in him, no aggression, no hatred (rancor) and no jealousy) (Ibn Majah, hadith no 4216)

Peace not violence:

Recise to them the truth of the story of the two sons of Adam. Behold! They both presented a sacrifice (to Allah). It was thus, accepted from one of the two but not from the other one. Said the latter: "Be sure, I swear I will slay you." "Surely," Said the former, "Allah does accept of the sacrifice of only those who are righteous". (Q5:27)

If you do stretch your hand against me to slay me, it is not for me to stretch my hand against you to slay you, for I do fear Allah, the Cherisher of the worlds.

(Q5:28)

"For me, I intend to let you draw on yourself my sin as well as yours, for you will be among the companions Of the fire, and that is the reward of the

wrongdoers. (Q5:29)

The (Selfish) soul of the other led him to the murder of his brother, he murdered him and became (himself) one of the losers (Q5:30) Then Allah sent a raven which scratched the ground to show him how to hide the shame of his brother. “Woe is me!” said he “was I not even able to be as this raven, and to hide the shame of my brother”? thus, he become full of regrets. (Q5:31)

Lessons to learn:

Important lessons are to be learnt from the story of Abel and Cain, the two sons Adam (AS). The two brothers offered sacrifice to Allah. That of the one who was sincere was accepted, while that of the other who was not sincere and pious was rejected. The latter sought to kill the former. The former preferred peace, while the latter chose violence and conflict, thus, he Killed the former and became regretful and sorrowful. The message is that: violence and conflict bring regret, sadness and sorrow. While peace brings Allah's rewards and paradise

On Peace, Allah (SWT) says:

And the servants of (Allah), the most gracious are those who walk on the earth in humility, and when the ignorant address them, they say, ”peace”! (Q25:63)

And when they hear vain talk, they turn away there from and say, “To us our deeds, and to you your deeds, peace be upon you, we seek not the ignorant.(Q28:55)

On Religious tolerance, Allah (SWT) says:

Verily you cannot guide everyone you love, but Allah guides those whom He wills, and He knows best those who receive guidance. (Q28:56)

Forgiveness Allah (SWT) says:

Hold to forgiveness, command what is right, and turn away from the ignorant (Q7:199)

On Self-restraint, Allah (SWT) says:

If an incitement from Satan assils your mind, seek refuge with Allah, for He hears and knows (all things). (Q7:200)

And if (at any time) an incitement to discord is made to you, by the evil one, seek refuge in Allah, He is the one who hears and knows all things. (Q41:36)

Sensible talk leads to peace. Allah (SWT) says:

Say to my servants that they should (only) say those things that are best, for Satan does sow dissension among them, for Satan is to a man an avowed enemy. (Q17:53)

Nor can goodness and evil be equal, repel (evil) with what is best; then will between whom and you was hatred, become as it were your friend and intimate. (Q41:34)

And no one will be granted such goodness except these who exercise patience and selfrestraint and none but persons of the greatest good fortune. (Q41:35)

Avoidance or religious provocation and respect for others' culture. Allah (SWT) says:

And Do not revile (Abuse) those whom they call upon besides Allah, lest they out of spite revile (abuse) Allah, in their ignorance thus, have we made Alluring to each people its own doings. In the end will they return to their Lord, and we shall then tell them the truth of all the they did. (Q6:108)

Persuasion in preaching, not force and violence. Allah (SWT) says:

Invite all to the way of your Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching and argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious, for your Lord knows best who have strayed from His path, and who received guidance. (Q16:125)

Consultation in Governance between those in government and the citizens. Allah (SWT) says:

It is part of the mercy of Allah that you do deal gently with them. Were you severe or harsh-hearted they would have broken away from about you, so pass over (their faults) and ask for (Allah's) forgiveness for them, and consult them in affairs (of Moment). Then when you have taken a decision, put your trust in Allah, for Allah loves those who put their trust in Him (Q3:159)

Spreading peace:

As-salam (Peace) is one of the Allah's names, Allah put it on the earth, therefore, spread it. (Sahihul al-jami'us sagir wa ziyadatuhu, vol.1 p 688)

Justices, doing goods to others and avoidance of tyranny and aggression

Allah commands justice, the doing of good and liberality to kith and kin, and He forbids all shameful things, and abominable things, and oppression (tyranny, aggression), He instructs you that you may receive admonition. (Q16:90)

Justice and rendering back the trust, in governance Allah (SWT) says:

Verily Allah does command you to render back your trusts to those to whom they are due, and when you adjudicate between people that you adjudicate with justice, verily how excellent is the teaching which He gives you! For Allah is He who hears and sees all things. (Q4:58)

Justice and avoidance of selfish interest in governance Allah (SWT) says:

O David! We did indeed make you a vicegerent on earth, so adjudicate between people in truth (and justice) and do not follow the lust (of your heart), for it will mislead you from the path of Allah, for those who wander astray from the path of Allah, is a penalty grievous, for that they forget the day of account. (Q38:26)

Persuasion, not force and violence in preaching Islam Allah (SWT) says:

Let there be no compulsion in religion, truth stands out clear from error, therefore, whoever rejects evil and believes in Allah has grasped the most trustworthy handhold that never breaks, and Allah hears and knows all things. (Q2:256)

If your Lord had so willed they would' all have believed all who are on earth! Will you then compel people against their will, to believe! (Q10:99)

Refrain from harming others

The best among the Muslims is he who Muslims are safe from his tongue and hands. (Sahihul jumius sager wa zujadatuhis, vol 1, p622)

Shunning sin, aggression and jealousy:

The best among people is one with frantic (anxiety-driven) heart and truthful tongue. It was said, "What is frantic heart?" He said, "it is the pious, clean, which has no sin in it, no aggression and no jealousy in it. (Sahihul

jarnius sagir wa ziyadatuhu, vol 1, p623

Patience and Forgiveness:

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said: Belief is patience and forgiveness (liberality, magnanimity, tolerance) (silsilatul ahadith as-saiyah, vol 2 p.89)

Interaction with other people:

The believer is he who intermingles (interacts) with people and exercises patience at their wrongdoing, he is better than he who does not intermingle with people, and does not exercise patience at their wrongdoing (silsilatul ahadith assaiyah, vol 2, p. 652, H.No 939)

Avoiding rumour-mongering Allah (SWT) says:

And pursue not that of which you have no knowledge, for every act of hearing, or of seeing, or of (feeling in) the heart will be enquired into (on the Day of reckoning) (Q17:36)

Idle curiosity may lead us to nose into evil, through our ignorance that it is evil. We must guard against every such danger. We must only hear [listen to] the things that are known to us to be of good report [true], and see things that are good and instructive and entertain in our hearts feelings or in our minds ideas that we have reason to expect, will be spiritually profitable to us... (YusufAli, P. 684)

O you who believed! If a wicked person comes to you with any news, ascertain the truth, lest you harm people unwittingly, and afterwards become full of regrets for what you have done (Q49:06)

All tittle-tattle or reports, especially if emanating from persons you do not know, are to be tested and the truth ascertained. If they were believed and passed on, much harm may be done, of which you may have cause afterwards to repent [regret] heartily. Scandal or slander of all kinds is here condemned... (YusufAli p 1340)

Modesty and Humility:

The messenger of Allah said: verily, Allah revealed to me that, "be humble, so that no one will boast to anyone, and no one will wrong anyone. (Muslim)

### Forgiveness and Humility:

The Messenger of Allah (SAW) said: alms does not decrease wealth, and with forgiveness Allah adds to his servant fame (greatness), and no one humbles himself for the sake of Allah, except Allah raises him higher. (Muslim)

people! Fear oppression (wrong-doing, tyranny, injustice, inequity), for oppression is darkness on the Day of Judgment, and fear avarice (stinginess, miserliness), for it destroyed those before you, and made them spill their blood and violate their sanctuaries (forbidden things). (silsilatul al-Ahadith assahiha)

## **CHAPTER 4: MESSAGES FOR CAMPAIGN AGAINST ELECTORAL VIOLENCE**

By Chom Bagu

### **A. Pre-Election**

1. People, Join the Search for Electoral Peace!
2. Educate the Voter, don't threaten or reprimand!
3. Let us all Pledge in our Hearts to support Electoral Peace!
4. The Young are Future leaders, show them the way!
5. The Good Politician is with the People and not against them!
6. You only use violence in elections when you know you are not a good candidate!
7. Violence is the weapon of choice of the weak, the strong face up!
8. Getting into office is not enough, it is the legacy you leave behind that matters!
9. Genuine political equality will arrive when women are voted for the same reasons that men are!
10. Don't change the goal post when women become candidates!
11. No one's political ambition is worth dying for!
12. A Peaceful Election is Possible, Believe in it and take action!
13. Give peace a chance during this election!
14. Bullets cannot be recalled. They cannot be un-invented but they can be taken out of the gun!
15. Just as political Violence is an invention of the human mind; so can human beings choose to invent peace during this election!
16. Peaceful election is a gift we ought to give our children now!
17. When the youths are instigated by the old men to fight their political battles, a generation is destroyed!
18. Political violence even when it appears to do good, the good is only temporary while evil is permanent!
19. Political violence is evil, it can never be justified!
20. Ever know that political violence, no matter how necessary, how justified, is a crime!

## **B. Party Primary Elections**

1. Not Party Supremacy, but Peoples' Supremacy
2. Electoral Peace is a Journey that starts from party primaries; lay the foundation now with transparent, free and fair elections!
3. Consensus/imposed candidates cannot be that good; otherwise, why can't they stand for elections?
4. In manipulated Party Primaries are injustices born!
5. The God Fathers are at it again, stop imposing candidates!
6. Spare us the agony godfathers, guarantee party justice!
7. Don't run away from the rigging and imposition, fight it democratically!
8. Remember, Ameachi of Rivers State was made governor without elections because of injustice during party primaries!
9. Campaign hard, reach the grassroots, and stop the political party manipulation!
10. The moneybags are here again; keep them out of your political parties!
11. Party primary selection or election, we must fight for internal party democracy!
12. Is it Abuja or peoples' candidates, party members assert your power!
13. Winner takes all works to break the Party!
14. A fair playing ground makes a good game!
15. Shifting the goal post during the game is called cheating!

## **C. Campaigns**

1. A good Manifesto needs no Fists Please!
2. Fight the issues not the Other Candidate!
3. Show your skills in convincing the electorates and not in breaking heads
4. Keep it clean! Focus on the issues, not the people!
5. Campaign on the issues and not the personalities!
6. Dog eat dog is the logo of the jungle, we are civilize here!
7. An eye for an eye makes a blind country!
8. Revenge is mine, says the Lord!

9. In Religion and Tribe we may differ, but in good governance we are united!
10. Do not stand and watch, campaign for your ideas and interests!
11. Money and violence, two evils we must stop during this Election!
12. The Voters want to know how good you will run the country and not how bad someone else will govern!
13. Violence is the only answer when you have no good Manifesto!
14. Do Nigeria a favour, don't contest election if you have nothing to offer!
15. Watch your language o yee politician, for it can breed fire!
16. Do no harm! If you can't help us make a good choice, get lost!
17. Thanks for conducting a clean election campaign!
18. In this election, Media prostitution is a problem that must be addressed!
19. Face the electorate, don't bribe your way!
20. Using government resources during campaigns is unfair advantage, stop it!

#### **D. Elections**

1. Vote in Peace and give our democracy a chance!
2. Cowards rig Elections, the Brave face the electorate!
3. Stolen votes come from political rogues!
4. The Vote is your Weapon of Mass Democracy; use it to guarantee your future!
5. Our Children are Coming, Vote to Empower them!
6. Vote for somebody and not against somebody!
7. Good politicians are worth your votes not your fist!
8. You can't Vote for money and expect Angels in government!
9. Don't take the bait! Do not rig because they are rigging!
10. Yes we can! Conduct Free and Fair Elections
11. Election Violence is bad behavior! Don't copy it!
12. Hold it! No Election violence here!
13. Not for my Children, under age voting!
14. Don't Dignify the Prophets of Doom; let's for once have peaceful elections!

15. Stop and think! There are better ways to victory than thuggery!
16. Think of the people you love, keep the elections safe!
17. End the cycle of election abuses, keep the elections clean!
18. No way for Jagajaga, stop the ballot thieves!
19. Don't give a dog a bad name; Elections can be Peace, free and fair if you allow it!
20. If they had rigged us out of Independence, where would we be today?
21. Your voice must count; Vote!
22. Your ballot is your voice, let it count!
23. Voting makes our nation great, it makes it a democracy!
24. Empower yourself- vote!
25. Vote in Peace and give our democracy a chance!
26. Maintain the peace while you vote so that the Prophets of doom will be shamed!
27. This is your chance- to reshape the government! Vote peaceful!
28. Tolerance is key in an Election, let's Practice it now!
29. We all have the priceless gift to make choices. We can choose to keep the peace or destroy precious lives!
30. Do not stand and watch, your vote can make a Difference!

### **E. Post-Election**

1. My hero is the politician who accepts Defeat calmly and waits for another chance!
2. Not Again, post-election Violence!
3. We only have ourselves to blame, if we allow them destroy our country!
4. Fight to the bitter end, is what you hear from big time losers!
5. Let the ayes have it! Be sportsmanly, accept defeat gracefully!
6. Fellow Nigerians, let bygone be bygone, vote and allow the Courts to do their work!
7. Hey! There, don't change the election numbers, they could lead to violence!
8. They have stolen the votes again? Please don't fight, go to court!

9. Watch what your children do these days, violence merchants are in town!
10. The victims of the last elections are still suffering; think twice before you volunteer to fight for any politician!
11. Wait, the Elections are not over till the courts give their verdict!
12. Don't play into the hands of terrorist, pursue your grievances legally!
13. How will it benefit you if you destroy Nigeria by resorting to violence to protest election malpractices?
14. Give Nigeria a lift; keep the peace while election petitions take their course!
15. End the cycle of electoral violence, let's for once celebrate a



## **CHAPTER 5: MESSAGES: ECLECTIC REFLECTIONS AND MUSING**

By Y. Z. Ya'u

1. We have watched helplessly blood spilling all over the land. We have seen economic activities grounded to a halt all because of insecurity. We have seen students unable to go to school for fear of violence. We have seen people being abused in the name of fighting insurgency. Too many people have lost their beloved ones and bread winners. Must we also give in to the creeping militarism that is talking ground in the land? Peace is what we need and all of us are challenged to think creatively and proactively on how we can make peace a reality in the land that has seen too much of horrors. PEACE NOW! is a campaign to mobilize communities to act and restore peace in the country. Join us in this effort by building a Peace Committee in your neighborhood.
2. There comes a time when ordinary citizens, in their multitude, have to lead the way out of crisis and set the pace for the development of the society. Now is the time for Nigerians. While politicians are busy scheming of who gets nominated for what against 2015 and have in the process abdicated their responsibility of providing for the welfare of the citizens, it is only pertinent that citizens pick up the pieces broken by the politicians and work towards a more peaceful country that is necessary for us to live a socially productive and meaningful life. Peace must come to our country!
3. In the business of peace building everybody is a stakeholder. Let us all be part of the bargain
4. Democracy can only thrive in a peaceful society. To consolidate our democracy, we must therefore make Peace
5. Peace is like knowledge: it never diminishes as a result of sharing. Instead, it expands. Let us share our peace with our neighbors.
6. The first cry of a new born baby is a craving for peace. Let us keep to that natural urge and social necessity by building Peace.
7. The footprints of my ancestors traversed the Nguru wetland thorough the complex of the Hadejia-Jama'are valley. This was afield not only supported the free grazing of animals but people also slept peacefully in

the open. Now that peace is gone. We must ask ourselves: what have we done wrong so that we could find how to retrace our steps to rediscover once again that blissful peace of the land.

8. And where does this bloodletting takes us to if not perdition? Now is the time to collectively say no to violence and act the Yes for Peace!
9. In spite of all the disappointment, we must not give up! Peace is possible and we can make it.
10. The pain of the people of the plains is the absence of peace. Let us collectively relieve this pain by working for the restoration of peace
11. Revolution is not about taking lives. It is about expanding the potential and possibilities for better lives.
12. I did not miss the road. It is simply that the violence and destruction have obliterated all the historical landmarks of my memory of the place. Poor Konduga: we will yet rebuild you.
13. And I asked myself: what is the crime of those hundreds slaughtered children and women? Does it not prink our conscience that we have as a collectivity failed I our elementary civic responsibility as our brother (and sisters) keepers? Sleep well the innocent souls of Konduga, Buni Yadi, Izge and all the other sites of this horror, your bewildered faces shall remain a ringing watchful eye on those with responsibility to stop the carnage.
14. The grief in our colleagues at University of Maiduguri is enveloping. You cannot escape it and the absurdity simply leaves you speechless. How can you make sense of a lecturer whose only vocation was the search for knowledge, being felled by the bullets of the assassins? Dr. Murtala Mohammad's passion was to seek to unearth how ICTs, or more especially social media, was capable of enhance development communication. Now he is gone and all is history. May his gentle soul rest in peace and may this spur us even the more, to redouble our efforts in the making of our country safer for all.
15. Peace is not the same absence of disagreement. It is about our ability to resolve or even manage these differences without resort to violence.
16. Violence simply dehumanizes both its victims and perpetrators. In this sense, we all are losing our humanity, and to that extent, our sanity too. To restore our humanity, It is therefore imperative that we all engage

- actively to end this specter of violence.
17. The disposable population: at least in Nigeria, government does not see people as asset or resource. It could order its security apparatus to wipe out communities and sleep well. The Baga human tragedy was entirely the making of Jonathan Goodluck. When he went to Maiduguri, he warned that his government will not tolerate any attack on a single security personnel. Poor Baga citizens: Insurgents or even armed robbers decided to kill a one soldier and as dutiful military who obey command, the JTF decided to take revenge on the unpatriotic citizens who allowed their town to be used for killing of soldier. They killed anyone that came across them and the result is the destruction of a community in the scale of Udi. Jonathan Goodluck whose badluck fell on Baga poor fishing people has squared up with Obasanjo and now has his own Udi. Two people killed in the USA, their President was up and doing seeking to find and bring the killers to books. Two Hundred women, children and the aged killed in Baga, and for all it mattered our president might have joined the JTF in celebrating a victory for getting off these disposables, which no doubt has reduced the population of the poor in the country and thus improved the rating of the country (a simple way to bring down the proportion of people leaving below the poverty level). People of conscience must now have to speak that there is place for people who commit this coldblooded murder: it is the International Criminal Court (ICC) of Justice. Goodluck, should now join the likes of Bashir of Sudan, as suspect unless his Government fish out and hand them over to be tried for mass murder.
  18. In this era of globalization with its ferocious search for market and the tumbling of borders, along with a border porosity of cyber society, Africa's development can only be possible through continental unity. Which is why there is a resurgence of the pan-African spirit as well as the consensus on promoting Africa's unity through economic and political integration. The ironic is that in this context, there are still people who look up to the old ages of ethnic kingdoms. True every successful unity must be based on justice and democracy, but a nostalgic throwback to a phantom ethnic sovereignty when national sovereignty is daily eroded by the forces of globalization misses the point of our development. By all means, let us debate the basis of our

unity, including that of Africa, but we must know that ultimately good governance does not come from the language or culture of the ruling class: it is from the struggle of the ordinary people to ensure that justice and fairness flourish in the society

19. And Lord, here it is: we have always thought that the insurgent violence in the Northeast is vote-profitable for some people who would rather want the people of the area not cast their votes comes 2015. So it must continue to till after 2015. We thank Prof Jega for letting the cat out by informing the public that if the violence continues, there would be no elections there. Who is to stop the violence? The President has overall responsibility in this. The bucks stop on his table. But given the fact that ordinary citizens in their millions could simply find themselves disenfranchised, it becomes imperative on us as citizens to become the engineers of our souls, and which is that we must rise to the occasion and ensure that peace reigns there. Peace is secured most sustainably by the people in their own determination and action, and not by bullets. Let all those committed to democracy commit themselves to doing something to aid the restoration of peace in this once peaceful but now painful plains of the sahara.
20. Obviously Ahmed Gulak (that is really a name), the Assistant to the President (is it on electoral violence?) has learned very fast from Asari Dokubo: Northerners are ready to die for Jonathan he declares. A side from the foolishness that anyone can die for another person, the message Gulak is telling us is that for him and his bosses, election 2015 is a do-or-die affair, and that if it takes to killing people, they could kill in order to win. We shall continue to campaign for free, fair and non-violent elections and hope that no one will die as a result of some people winning or losing elections. But people like Gulak who make a living by wanting to be seen the new militants of President Jonathan must be told that if their business is blackmail, their market and capital have long been exhausted. No one listens to the ranting of a heckler for money.
21. With peace everything is possible. As we turn solemn to celebrate the Christmas let us remember that only people living in peace can enjoy such gift from God. Let us therefore leverage our differences as God-given endowments to Live harmoniously and make this world a better

- place to live, and work in the service of God, to ensure an ensure better future in the hereafter. Merry Christmas!
22. Peace is a radically expanding phenomenon. Conquer the immediate space in order to expand the frontiers of peace
  23. We cannot practice our religious duties without peace and without this we cannot be faithful to our God. Peace is therefore the foundation of our faith. Let us build and build our covenant with God.
  24. The building of peace is a collective responsibility: make your contribution Now?
  25. Peace Now is not a slogan: it is the Task that must be done Now!
  26. Peace is precious: do not destroy it!
  27. It takes a second to start conflict but takes long to extinguish the flame and restore peace. Let us message our differences and disagreements rationally and amicably without ignite the spark for violent
  28. Peace is a shared responsibility. Only our collective efforts will ensure that we experience it.
  29. It is time to say no to this violence and to act this NO by organizing for Peace.
  30. To remain silence and passive in the face of this cowardly killing of school children is not only an affirmation of cowardliness but also a negation of our humanity.
  31. If it is difficult to make people, it is impossible to live with violence.
  32. Bama, Konduga, Izge and now Buni Yadi all forlorn. We can only honour the memory of the those innocence souls that were slaughtered and remain our fractured conscience by organizing to stop further occurrence of this barbarism.
  33. Securing the peace in the north east, like in any other place, is a collective responsibility of all, with government leading and coordinating the efforts. This requires that the government as represented by the military must engage the communities affected and work with them. The communities know the terrain better, have more information about the insurgents and can assist the military with gathering of intelligence that is needed to prosecute the campaign against the insurgents. A positive disposition on the part of the military towards the communities is critical to the winning of the confidence of

the people to support and give their best to the military. As it is now, the military acts as if in the terrain, there are only they and the insurgents and all others, including members of the communities are collaterals. This strategy is responsible not only for pro-longing the insurgency but also for the high number of deaths of ordinary people who fall victims of cross fire, in addition to those that are killed as part of the campaign of the insurgents. Let our military stop treating the communities as disposables but work with them to secure the peace for the communities and the country, after all, peace is of no value to a dead person.

34. If all these insurgents are our youth, then we must ask ourselves an important question: why is it such youths will leave the mainstream society and move to the marginal space of insurgency whose only purpose is to violently confront the mainstream society? Why is it that the insurgents find it easy to recruit such youths in spite of the dangers that life in insurgent signifies? An answer to this is critical to developing a strategy that will undercut the recruitment base of the insurgents which is not be part of the soft strategy for fighting the insurgents. We must admit as a nation, that government at all levels has failed our youth and an honest response required for youth to believe that the Nigerian state cares for them. In this, we face the challenge that the state must justify its existence by making life meaningful for the ordinary youth who feel alienated from it.
35. Poor commuters, was it your fault you needed to use the public space and public transport to go for your legitimate earn? Sad, sad beyond words that that it was an agonizing end. When will this madness end? My mind is numbness and the anguish is even a better state of mind than the feeling of impotence that we see fellow human beings shredded and can't do anything about it! Democracy is about enhancing life, this counterfeit is about diminishing it. Leadership is about providing a broader shoulder for lifting citizens out of misery, this rudderless is about kicking off the ladder for them to fall. We have not fought military dictatorship to descend to this low that human life is so worthless. No, it was not the destined trajectory. Time we all act to roll back the hands of this mindless violence that is threatening the nation and reclaim a trajectory that we aspire to. May our sadness catalyze us into realizing that we must wake to our collective responsibility to secure our peace.

- that we must wake to our collective responsibility to secure our peace. No one, not even the government, can do it for us until we say No to further bloodbath in the land. Hope is there that we shall surely overcome but not in passivity. Evil must be fought and defeated!
36. Where are the patriots? We need to urgently find a brake to stop the fast moving train of national implosion that has taken hold of Nigeria.
  37. Growing in the plains of Jamaare River valley, I knew what hunters were, but didnt know that government could abdicate so easily to hunters.
  38. What does emergency rule means? Certainly it does not stop the killings in the NE but some people are profiteering from it. Self-serving
  39. They have killed Shekau and they have a ceasefire (with who?): now we have only more fire in Mubi and Gombe. The lies are just too obvious.
  40. We are happy that there is a ceasefire. But can the govt tell us the BH leader who signed the agreement given that attacks are still on?
  41. I am still an unrepentant patriot, a peace activist, committed to democracy and social justice in their fullest sense
  42. Osun is over, let us focus on Gwoza: there is a battle to be won. **#BringBackOurGirls** and let there be peace is our CRY! Action not words GEJ.
  43. Poor northeasters: their lives do not matter because their votes are not at stake. So their daughters can be missing with GEJ feeling cosy.
  44. GEJ berated Gov Shettima for saying that the military lacked the equipment to fight BH. Now GEJ wants billions for military equipment.
  45. Someone has decided to rain bombs on Kano. It shall come to pass: work to ensure that there is no more space for bombs. **#NoMoreBombsinKano!**
  46. Oh Nigeria, cannot help but sing the melancholic tunes of the guard rider: kai ni gaji gora, and hope for the light at end of the tunnel
  47. GEJ thinks **#BringBackOurGirls** campaign is political: does he thinks not bringing them back is apolitical? Political is a dignified word for us
  48. Justice is not a particularistic regional value. We all need to work together to ensure justice, equity and fairness in the country.
  49. What if it was your sister or daughter that was abducted? You can only rule over a people and not empty land. **#BringBackOurGirls** now GEJ!

GEJ!

50. Knowing where the girls are held is not what matters: what matters is to [#BringBackOurGirls](#) safely. Until they are back we are all insecured.
51. Words empty, tears impotent, fractured conscience feels numb for the pain is painless because it is extremely painful, parents all we are.

## CHAPTER 6: CROWD SOURCED MESSAGES

By Sagir Ado Abubakar

### Introduction

This is a compilation of a selection of the messages by people that were posted in our facebook group, Peace Now, the group set up to provide space for positive messaging to promote peace and national unity. We have reproduced the messages as they were posted without editing. A few are in Hausa, and we did not feel it necessary to translate them into English. Space would not allow us to do justice to the messages that were posted but we hope this gives an insight into the conversations that take place on Peace.

### The Postings

S/N	Peace Quatations/statements	By Who?	Date
	Without peace, there won't be development. I call on Nigerians to embrace peace for through that alone, we'd make a peaceful co-existence and progress. -Alhaji Nafi'u Nuhu Indabo, Sarkin Kasuwar Sabon Garin Kano	Sufyan Lawal Kabo	8/4/2014
	May Allah bring peace to our nation and in the entire muslim countries	Misbahu A Abubakar	7/8/2014
	For any development there must be peace, we love Nigeria and we need peace in Nigeria, we the Youth, we have to be peace makers and peace ambassadors. NWU S4P see more at <a href="http://www.citad4peace.org.ng">www.citad4peace.org.ng</a>	Shehu Usman Salihi	23/12/2014
	"Follow peace with all men, says the Bible." - Bishop Ransome Bello, President, Christian Association of Nigeria, (CAN) Kano branch	Sufyan Lawal Kabo	7/4/2014
	Working for peace today is an obligation that is necessarily self-assertive. This is especially because it has always been a part of the human being to earnestly seek peace in the depths of his/her being. Since this desire for peace springs from within, so has it been rightly said that there is peace in the world to the extent that there is righteousness in the heart	<i><u>Huzaiifa Yakub</u></i>	23/12/2014
	Nigeria ranks high in the world global insurgent death in 2014, even yesterday is another deadly brutality at Zamfara state hundreds have died. What are we doing or it's not yet time? No, it's time that we have to wake up wipe our eyes and bring peace into existence or else you and I are the next victims.	Aliyu Hassan	6/4/2014

Babu abinda yafi zaman lafiya dadi domin sai da zaman lafiya ake samun cigaba na rayuwa dana gari. Sai da zaman lafiyane za'a samu lafiya acikin jiki. Sai da zaman lafiyane zaka iya kewayawa ko ina kanemi abinda zakaci. Sai da zaman lafiyane kake iya kyautatawa abokan zamanka. Wannan kuma bazai yiwuba sai Ni da kai mun hadan kai munkawo zaman lafiya cikin unguwan ninmu da qauyukanmu da garuruwanmu hama da qasa baki daya Mu hadan kai domin kawo zaman lafiya da cigabanmu.	Abdullahi Balarabe Yakubu Dotsa	5/4/2014
Mu zauna lafiya.	Aliyu Hassan	5/4/2014
zaman lafiya yafi zama dan sarki.	Ibrahim Hussain	4/4/2014
Zaman lafiya shine ginshikin farin cikin al umma. Allah yakara mana zaman lafiya akasamu baki daya.	Khadija Ismail Idrees	4/4/2014
As much as it hurts, I would rather miss someone than hit someone. –Brain Celio	Shehu Usman Salihu	4/4/2014
Allah ka zaunar damu lafiya	Faisal Lawal Balarabe	4/4/2014
Al'ummomin Fulani da Tibabe a Nasarawa Sun Yi Yarjejeniyar Zaman Lafiya. A wata yarjejeniya da al'ummonin Fulani da Tibabe (Tiv) suka yi a jihar Nasarawa karkashin kwamitin da gwamnatin tarayya ta kafa sun kawo karshen fadace fadace tsakaninsu.	Sagiru Ado Abubakar	3/4/2014
Join us in the war against violence, conflict, terrorism and promote peace. We are ready to totally eradicate injustice and bring justice which can promote peace and make people's life joyful to live in peace.	Aliyu Hassan	3/4/2014
Conference: All Fighting For Unity?   "Those who killed the 59 young children in Yobe did not differentiate between Christians and Muslims. Therefore, let us tolerate one another, let us be patriotic; we have no other country to go to." Clark said	Prince Charles Dickson	3/4/2014
May the peace Mercy and Blessing of Allah be upon to you all. ATTENTION!!! Having competent and credible leaders is indeed one of the instruments of "Peace Sustainability". Now chance has come, Be "Peace agents" through voting for "Peace Ambassadors". Use your Powerful Tool (Register)."Spread Peace messages" Campaign for Peace" Demonstrate Peace Attitude. May Allah continue to grant us "Lovely Peace situation. Internal and External AMEEN.	Hafiz S <sub>2</sub> Muhammad	29/12/2014
RELIGION IS A UNIFYING FORCE FOR PEACE	Centre for Crisis Prevention and Peace Advocacy (CCPPA)	1/4/2014

My office is open 24hours for you to come or call on anything of security challenges. -Bauchi Police Commissioner	Isah A Garba	1/4/2014
Peace and Security are the primary conditions for progress and development". - Dr. Otiye Igbuzor	Kabiru Said Dakata	1/4/2014
The Peace Within! The holy book says "It is better to dwell in a corner of house top than to abide in a large house with a contentious woman" The passage above emphasizes on PEACE!, peace in the home, peace begins from individuals before it can be translated to others. A man who has peace on his inside will translate such to his household and to his immediate environment. You cannot say that you are peace loving or peaceful when every iota of rumour shakes you, or affects your decision. Choose to enjoy the peace within your, then the people around you will benefit from your peace! As ambassadors of peace, we need to tough and tolerant in going about our peaceful dealings. Have a peaceful week and HAPPY NEW MONTH!	Cee Obong	1/4/2014
When you find peace within yourself, you become the kind of person who can live at peace with others  - Peace Pilgrim	Shehu Usman Salihu	31/3/2014
@srcoc.with out peace life will become terrible,soul will me missing,blood will be sheds too much brutality every where,but with peace life will become joyful,full of happiness that is why we say yes to peace and no to violence and conflict.	Aliyu Hassan	31/3/2014
You see such smiles only when there's peace.	Sufyan Lawan Kabo	30/3/2014
Wanted More peace in the World Please	Omid Mohammadi	29/3/2014
Peace for All War for None's photo	Omid Mohammadi	29/3/2014
Peace can be promoted through:-  * Protection of Human Rights:- Peace can be promoted though the protection of human rights. When people are denied what belongs to them, they are competing and protecting their rights that peace can reign.  * Curtailing Voilence: Two factors that continue to militate against the hope for peace are conflict and violence. Some people believe that though violence, they can attain political freedom and spiritual purity. They also believe that only destructive force can eliminate unwanted rulers. But they fail to understand that violence solves no problem. To solve political, religious and social problems, violence and conflicts must be avoided.	Adamu Idris Fagam	28/3/2014

Dear Friends, Note that peace has never come from dropping bombs. Real peace comes from enlightenment and educating people to behave more in a divine manner.	Sufyan Lawan Kabo	28/3/2014
muyi amfani da damar yau babbar rana mu roki Allah ya kawomana zaman lafiya.	Aliyu Hassan	28/03/2014
If you cannot find peace within yourself, you will never find it anywhere else -Marvin Gaye	Shehu Usman Salihu	28/3/2014
muzauna lafiya	Aliyu Hassan	27/03/2014
Hating people because of their color or where they come from is wrong. And it doesn't matter which color or side does the hating. It's just plain wrong.	Sufyan Lawan Kabo	26/3/2014
The quest for peace begins in the home, in the school and in the workplace. Try to be a peace ambassador as ur skul, work place and ur area by mobilizing people show them how important peace is.	Umar Yahaya Abubakar	26/3/2014
Joint us for mobilisation,awareness and campaign against violence and ensure the existence of peace.	Aliyu Hassan	24/3/2014
Nelson mandela said " Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." please use your knowledge to promote peace in our society. Good night	Umar Yahaya Abubakar	24/3/2014
For behind all imperialism is ultimately the imperialistic individual, just as behind all peace is ultimately the peaceful individual.	Umar Yahaya Abubakar	24/3/2014
Jumaat kareem. May Allah forgive our sin, protect and bless us. Allah kuma ya wanzar da zaman lafiya acikin al umma baki daya.	Khadeejah Ismail idrees	
I dream of a war-free world	Sufyan Lawan Kabo	23/3/2014
To fight against insurgent we must sacrifice our time and everything, to talk peace, share peace, create peace, implement peace and display peace every were we go.	Aliyu Hassan	23/3/2014
peace most exist insha Allah	Aliyu Hassan	22/3/2014
slm never get tide of appealing this word "PEACE" realising its benefits to humanity!	Hafiz S Muhammad	22/3/2014
Weapons do not bleed, but human beings do. Embrace Peace and say No to violence -Godwin Okoko	Shehu Usman Salihu	22/3/2014
our dream is to promote peace and unity in this country at large,share the word of peace every were u go,make peace to be your identity.we love peace	Aliyu Hassan	21/3/2014
,we are supporting citad peace project,100 percent.	Aliyu Hassan	21/3/2014
"CITAD has surely tackled a great task. Rolling out violence and promotion of peace is indeed a great task that requires the support of community leaders, religious clerics and of course youths whom are the actors and mostly the victims of violence. I call on Nigerians especially youth to shun violence and	HRH Alhaji Ibrahim Abdulkadir, Hakimi (District Head) of Gaya	21/3/2014

"CITAD has surely tackled a great task. Rolling out violence and promotion of peace is indeed a great task that requires the support of community leaders, religious clerics and of course youths whom are the actors and mostly the victims of violence. I call on Nigerians especially youth to shun violence and abscond from being machinery of the underworld. I assure you of my total support in ensuring of peace in our beloved country Nigeria."	HRH Alhaji Ibrahim Abdulkadir, Hakimi (District Head) of Gaya	21/3/2014
I CALL ON YOUTH TO SHUN VIOLENCE AND BUILD THEIR FUTURE. -	HRH, Alh Aminu Ado Bayero, Sarkin Dawakin Tsakar Gida, Hakimin Dala.	20/3/2014
The is no greater wealth in dis world than peace	Ibrahim Muhd	19/3/2014
O 'GOD GIVE US YOUR EVERLASTING PEACE TO OUR COUNTRY NIGERIA!	Steven Azi	19/3/2014
Whenever you are confronted with an opponent. Conquer him with love -Mahatma Gandhi 'PEACE NOW!'	Shehu Usman Salihu	18/3/2014
ABUJA ROTARIANS MARCH FOR PEACE  Rotarians in Abuja staged a walk at the weekend to canvass peace, especially in parts of Nigeria with security challenges, days after International Women's Day.	Sagiru Ado Abubakar	17/3/2014
Peace and friendship with all mankind is our wisest policy, and I wish we may be permitted to pursue it -Ahon Adaka T.	Shehu Usman salihu	17/3/2014
Idan har ba mu kawar da yaki daga wannan duniyar ba, to ba shakka wata rana shi yakin zai kawar damu daga duniyar." - Harry S Truman (1884-1972)	Sufyan Lawan Kabo	17/3/2014
PEACE IS WHAT SHOULD COME FIRST ON OUR MINDS - Alhaji Rabilu Musa (Ibro)	Sufyan lawan Kabo	16/3/2014
Peace is Possible, & is Development' is there anything like peace?	Steven Azazi	15/03/2014
WITHOUT PEACE, OUR FUTURE AND THAT OF OUR CHILDREN IS AT STAKE. - Hajiya Hajara Usman	Sufyan Lawan Kabo	15/3/2014
BENUE BISHOPS CALL FOR PEACE Catholic bishops in Benue State on Wednesday called for end to the ongoing crisis in their state. The Catholic bishops of Makurdi, Otukpo, Gboko and Katsina-Ala dioceses Athanasius Usuh, Michael Apochi, William Avenya and Peter Adogo respectively spoke after lengthy deliberations and blamed poor leadership for the happening.	Sagiru Ado Abubakar	14/3/2014

<p>KANO EMIRATE SUPPORT PEACE EFFORT - Wambai of Kano, HRH Alhaji Abbas Sunusi</p> <p>...Verily we commend your courage, determination and patriotic effort with profound gratitude on behalf the Emir of Kano. With ethnic and religious tolerance, together we can build a better Nigeria through understanding and love, and by so doing, we can bring an end to the pain and suffering of all sentient beings."</p>	Sufyan Lawan Kabo	13/3/2014
<p>EMBRACE PEACE AND DIALOGUE</p> <p>MUSLIM WOMEN SEEK DIVINE INTERVENTION AGAINST INSURGENCY</p> <p>The Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN) has called on its members across the nation to embark on special fasting and prayers for divine intervention against insurgency in the North east.</p> <p>The group in a statement condemned the killing of students of the Federal Government College Bunu, Yadi, Yobe State by suspected members of the Boko Haram insurgents.</p>	Ado Shehu Yakasai	12/3/2014
<p>"How can we have peace if we don't build relationships?" -- Ikenna Ezeibe</p>	Shehu Usman Salihu	11/3/2014
<p>Peace is an occurrence of harmony characterized by the lack of violence, conflict behaviors and the freedom from fear of violence. Commonly understood as the absence of hostility and retribution, peace also suggests sincere attempts at reconciliation, the existence of healthy or newly healed interpersonal or international relationships, prosperity in matters of social or economic welfare, the establishment of equality, and a working political order that serves the true interests of all.</p>	Shehu Usman Salihu	11/3/2014
<p>My message 2 all youth during dis period of campaign &amp; election, let us peace. And don't allowe urself 2 be as agent of destruction</p>	<u><i>Monday Adeoye Isaac</i></u>	15/11/2014
<p>say no to political violence, say no to regionalism or regional integration, say we need peace and we want to live in peace</p>	Aliyu Hassan	10/3/2014
<p>Zama Lafiya yafi zama Dan Sarki (Living in peace is better than being a prince) A Hausa proverb</p>	Sufyan Lawan Kabo	10/3/2014
<p>shre slm among u and be frz wit one another, put a smile on ur chks coz smile convey the messege of peace.</p>	Aliyu Hassan	10/3/2014
<p>Lets us pray for peace in the country more especially in the north east of country. May bring peace and unity in that part of country. Ammen summa ameen.</p>	Ado Shehu Yakasai	10/3/2014
<p>It is the future of the children that should spur both sides toward peace-</p>	Shehu Usman Salihu	7/3/2014

"FOR NIGERIA TO GET TO THE PROMISED LAND, OUR YOUTHS MUST EMBRACE PEACE." - Alh. Hamisu Lamido Iyantama	Sufyan Lawan Kabo	7/3/2014
Love is peace!	Steven Azi	6/3/2014
Let's put head together to be peace *Ambassador of our great nation Nigeria. Let put head and hands to promote peace. Let's the labour of our hero shall not go in vain. United we stand. 9ja we stand. Via: Aminu Mohammed, Northwest University, Kano	Shehu Usman Salihu	5/3/2014
Ya alummar kasar nan ya kamata mu hada kanmu domin ci gaban alummar mu, kasar, arzikin mu da sauran abubuwan ra yuwa na ci gaba. Wadannan abubuwa ba zasu samu ba sai da zaman lafiya, zaman lafiya shine cigaban kan mu da kanmu.	Ado Shehu	5/3/2014
Courageous people do not fear forgiving for the sake of peace"	Abdullahi A Abdullahi	4/3/2014
If you want peace, you don't talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies	Abdullahi A Abdullahi	4/3/2014
It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it"	Abdullahi A Abdullahi	3/3/2014
Peace cannot be kept by force, it can only be achieved by understanding	Abdullahi A Abdullahi	3/3/2014
One can not reflect in streaming water. Only those who know internal peace can give it to others. - Lao Tzu	Shehu Usman Salihu	3/3/2014
There was never a good violence or a bad peace...	Steven Azi	2/3/2014
Peace is a journey of a thousand miles and it must be taken one step at a time. - Lyndon B. Johnson	Shehu Usman Salihu	28/2/2014
Apostolic Faith SUES FOR PEACE THE District Superintendent, West and Central Africa, Apostolic Faith Church, Rev. 'Bayo Adeniran has urged Nigerians to live in peace, love one another and turn to God, stressing that the country will surmount its current challenges as long as Nigerians embrace righteous-ness. Adeniran advised Nigerians to eschew violence, dishonesty and corruption which he pointed out, are the bane of the country's development.	Sagiru Ado Abubakar	28/2/2014
The greatest personalities that ever existed have been those who united human beings and put them on the road toward cooperation and effectiveness and peace. Those whom the world has held highest have helped to unite and not sever interconnectedness. They have not been the destroyers of differences but the harmonizer of differences. JOHN LOVEJOY ELLIOTT	Yunusa Ya'u	27/2/2014
We can only develop our people, community and country if there is peace among us. And peace can never exist without unity, let unite together for peace.	Ado Shehu	26/2/2014
there is no development without peace	Auwal Muhammad	26/2/2014
To reach peace, teach peace.	Steven Azi	24/2/2014
People can only be happy even if they dont have money but if there is peace among them, but if they have money and	Ado Shehu	24/2/2014

People can only be happy even if they dont have money but if there is peace among them, but if they have money and everything but no peace among themselves, violence occur there and then they will never have rest of mind. Let have the peace.	Ado Shehu	24/2/2014
CHRISTIAN, MUSLIM CLERICS CALL FOR PEACE IN KADUNA The Catholic Archbishop of Kaduna Archdiocese, Matthew Man-oso Ndagoso and the Secretary General of Jama'atul Nasril Islam (JNI), Dr. Khalid Abubakar, yesterday urged Christians and Muslims in Kaduna State to embrace peace and dialogue, saying that is the only way to achieve unity.	Sagiru Ado Abubakar	24/2/2014
PEACE NOW Bullets cannot be recalled. They cannot be un-invented but they can be taken out of the gun! (Maimuna Rabi'u Imam) Northwest University, Kano. -Chom Bagu	Shehu Usman Salihu	23/2/2014
Will Work For Unity Of Nigeria – Speaker, House Of Reps, Aminu Tambuwal 22.02.2014, 16:24	Sufyan Lawan Kabo	22/2/2014
Hate destroys, Love builds. Hate tears down, Love renews and creates. Hatred holds no hope for the future. Love creates Today as its own better future. – Jonathan Lockwood	Yunusa Ya`u	22/2/2014
It is so hard to forget pain, but it is even harder to remember sweetness. We have no scar to show for happiness. We learn so little from peace". Jum'a Kareemah.	Mukhtar Suleiman Umar	21/2/2014
Peace of mind, serenity, and calmness are descriptions of a disposition free from the effects of stress. May Allah granted us with everlasting peace in our dearly Northern Nigeria and the entire nation as whole.	Dahiru Wada Gunsau	17/2/2014
If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other!	Nura Iro Ma`aji	18/2/2014
Islam means submission. The title "Muslim"—etymologically directly related to salaam and the name Islam—means a person who submits to Allah in salaam. The submission to Allah (the Arabic proper noun for "The God", One and Only) is based on humility. An attitude of humility within one's own self cannot be accomplished without total rejection of violence, and a personal attitude and alignment toward peace.	Dahiru Wada Gunsau	18/2/2014
PEACE is not only the absence of VIOLENCE but the presence of JUSTICE	Hafiz S Muhammad	17/2/2014
Money and violence, two evils we must stop during this Election!	Yunusa Ya`u	17/2/2014
What is Peace? Peace is an occurrence of harmony characterized by the lack of violence, conflict behaviors and the freedom from fear of violence. Commonly understood as the absence of hostility and retribution, peace also suggests sincere attempts at	Ado Shehu	17/2/2014

<p>What is Peace?  Peace is an occurrence of harmony characterized by the lack of violence, conflict behaviors and the freedom from fear of violence. Commonly understood as the absence of hostility and retribution, peace also suggests sincere attempts at reconciliation,  a. A state of tranquility or quiet  b. A freedom from civil disturbance  c. A state of security or order within a community provided for by law or custom  Let work together to ensure all the above mention words.</p>	Ado Shehu	17/2/2014
<p>Thank God for we have peace loving mind...our utmost support shall be presented. Peace the root for development and progress.  Fatai Adams (Northwest University, Kano)</p>	Shehu Usman Salihu	16/2/2014
<p>O God give us ur everlasting peace in our Country Nigeria, And would at large.</p>	Steven Azi	15/2/2014
<p>ZA'A SAMU ZAMAN LAFIYA IDAN SHUGABANNIN ADDINI SUNA FADAWA MASU RIKE DA MADAFIN IKO GASKIYA  Sheikh Abdullahi Bala Lau</p>	Sagiru Ado Abubakar	14/2/2014
<p>Let's there be Peaceful, at all possible times!</p>	Steven Azi	13/2/2014
<p>'I of d advantages of telling da truth u dnt need to remember wat to say..." Peace at all</p>	Shehu Usman Salihu	13/2/2014
<p>Peace has to be created in order to be maintained. It is the product of faith, strength, energy, will, sympathy, justice, imagination and triumph of principle.  It will never be achieved by passivity and quietism – Dorothy Thompson.</p>	Yunusa Ya`u	13/2/2014
<p>Yes peace is d key engine of every development ,no any country in d world big or small ,dat would hv developed wx out peace ,let us live togather peacefully, faithfully, harmoniously as nigerian.' for d development nd progression of our father's land</p>	Yusuf Aliyu Faragai	12/2/2014
<p>Xama lfy shine yafi komai arayu wa allah yaba mu kwan ciyar hankali da xm lfy akasar mu nigeria ameen</p>	Huzaiifa Aminu	12/2/2014
<p>if war is ever lawful, then peace is sometimes sinful. (PEACE NOW)</p>	Shehu Usman Salihu	12/2/2014
<p>Bullets cannot be recalled. They cannot be un-invented but they can be taken out of the gun!  -Chom Bagu</p>	Yunusa Ya`u	12/2/2014
<p>Peace promotes unity and understanding. When members of society work together with one mind, they are able to understand themselves better. This enables them to identify their common problems which requir common solutions.  @ Peace helps to promote harmony and progress. When</p>	Abubakar Adamu Idris Fagam	11/2/2014

<p>A SHORT STORY ON PEACE~</p> <p>There once was a woman who was a dreamer. She believed, for instance, that there must be a way to see things ten thousand miles away. She figured there must be a way for people to stand on their own heads, and he was sure there must be a way for people to live without fear.</p> <p>The people told her, "None of those things can be done; you're a dreamer!" And they said, "You've got to open your eyes and accept reality!" And they said, "There are laws of nature, and you can't just change them!"</p> <p>But the woman said, "I don't know, but there must be a way to breathe under water, and there must be a way to give everybody something to eat. There must be a way for everybody to learn what he or she wants to know. There must be a way to look inside your own belly."</p> <p>And the people said, "Pull yourself together, Miss; those things will never happen. You can't simply say you want something and then just expect it to happen. The world is the way it is, and that's all there is to it!"</p> <p>When television was invented and x-ray machines, man was able to see ten thousand miles away and he could see inside his own belly. But no one said to the woman, "Okay, I guess you weren't so wrong, after all." And they said nothing after someone invented diving suits that allowed people to breathe easily under water. But the woman said to herself: that's what I thought. Maybe one day it will even be possible to get along WITHOUT WARS.</p>	Sufyan Lawan Kabo	10/2/2014
<p>If you want to make peace, you don't talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies" Archbishop Tutu</p>	Kabiru Dakata	10/2/2014
<p>PEACE is very important for several reasons:</p> <p>@ Peace frees the individual from anxiety and insecurity thereby creating happiness.</p> <p>@ Peace creates a good environment for people to be creative and productive. Therefore, it enhances development.</p> <p>@ Peace ensures group security and solidarity.</p> <p>@ when there is no peace as in war time, educational, economic, political and social activities are disrupted. School children can no longer freely go to school; many people are killed; many more are thrown out of their homes. Generally,</p>	Abubakar Adamu Idris Fagam	10/2/2014

Always avoid your self from making disunity among people, be a peace ambassador any time.	Ado Shehu Yakasai	10/2/2014
Events in history question man and woman in earnest. This enquiry probes the deepest recesses of the heart: war, arms trade, armaments, nuclear weaponry and a host of others. Where are we heading to? Can there be an answer? Love is the answer to everyone's need, love is the prayer that everyone needs, peace is the answer to everyone's need, and peace should be the prayer on everyone's lips. Progress and mutual co-existence can only be possible in an atmosphere of peace.	Abdurrashid Ibrahim Sadiq	10/2/2014
The building up of peace involves parents who are examples and witnesses of peace in their respective family. Teachers on their own part need to pass on the genuine values present in every field of knowledge, be it in the historical, cultural or religious heritage of humanity	Abdurrashid Ibrahim Sadiq	9/2/2014
Each one has to find his peace from within. And peace to be real must be unaffected by outside Circumstances.	Steven Azi	9/2/2014
Let us promote peace among our self by helping our self to maintain peace	Ado Shehu Yakasai	8/2/2014
I need peace, you need peace, and we all need peace. Man and woman will never find peace until they extend their circle of compassion to include all human beings.	Abdurrashid Ibrahim Sadiq	8/2/2014
YOBE MONARCHS PREACH PEACE By Mohammed Abubakar - Special Correspondent, Damaturu Yobe State Council of Chiefs has yobe to intervene and counsel appropriate authorities on the need to be peaceful in the state.	Sagiru Ado Abubakar	8/2/2014
Peace hath higher tests of manhood, than battle ever knew.	Umar Yahaya Abubakar	7/2/2014
PAY ATTENTION TO SECURITY, CATHOLIC BISHOPS TELL FG  Catholic bishops have expressed concern that the forthcoming general election is taking an "undue chunk of government's attention and energy" to the detriment of security.	Sagiru Ado Abubakar	7/2/2014
Peace always!	Steven Azi	6/2/2014
DAURA MONARCH TASKS POLITICIANS ON PEACE  Emir of Daura, Alhaji Umar Faruk Umar, has cautioned politicians against unguarded utterances to avoid overheating the polity.	Sagiru Ado Abubakar	6/2/2014
"Peace is not the product of terror or fear. Peace is not the silence of cemeteries not the silent result of violent repression. Peace is the generous, tranquil contribution of all to the good of all. Peace is dynamism. Peace is generosity. It is right and it is duty."	Shehu Usman Salihu	6/2/2014

<p>“Love one another; to others as to you; forgive one another; share all things in common; turn the other cheek...” are all these scriptural injunctions practicable? Is it possible to live out these values in the context of an aggressive and volatile milieu like ours? Remember His words: “if you love me you will keep my word”; and “I will be with you till the end of time”.</p>	Abdurrashid Ibrahim Sadiq	6/2/2014
<p>We would like to address all the Muslims and say: Fear Allah in matters concerning Islam! Do not lock it [Islam] in your sectarian or fanatic prisons, do not destroy it by your spite and conflicts, do not distort it by ignorance and backwardness, do not lose it for the sake of your personal interests, and do not shed the blood of its people by your Takfiri atrociousness. Rather, enrich it by your potentials, spread it to the world by your innovations, elevate it by your leniency, cherish it by your free will, strengthen it by your unity, and do not render it vulnerable to the enemies' conspiracies and the schemes of the arrogant...have I conveyed the message? O Allah, testify" - Sayyed Muhammad Hussain Fadlallah (ra)</p>	Isah A Garba	6/2/2014
<p>Peace cannot be attained on earth without safeguarding the goods of persons, free communication among humans, respect for the dignity of humans and the assiduous practice of fraternity. Peace is the tranquility of order. Peace is the work of justice and the effect of charity.</p>	Abdurrashid Ibrahim Sadiq	5/2/2014
<p>OH! MY GOODNESS HOW I WISH EVERY ONE WOULD UNDERSTAND THE BENEFIT OF THE MOST SIMPLEST WORD "(PEACE)" !!!</p>	Hafiz S Muhammad	5/2/2014
<p>If you wish to experience peace, provide peace for another.</p>	Steven Azi	4/2/2014
<p>of course PEACE is a GOWN that all reasonable persons wish to put on</p>	Hafiz S Muhammad	4/2/2014
<p>Peace is not an absence of war, it is a virtue, a state of mind, a disposition for benevolence, confidence, justice</p>	Umar Yahaya Abubakar	4/2/2014
<p>Peace making is a healing process and it begins with me, but it does not end there.</p>	Shehu Usman Salihu	4/2/2014
<p>I dont feel bad if people only remember me when they need me. I feel priviledge like a candle that comes to their mind when there is darkness. May Allah(swt) in his infinite mercy make our life of greater benefit to humanity! Ameen.</p>	<b><u>Abubakar Suleiman</u></b>	14/11/2014
<p>CONQUER OTHER PEOPLE'S HEART BY SHOWING THEM LOVE AND PEACE" -</p>	<i>Alh Abba Sufi, DG Hisbah Command, Kano</i>	
<p>"THINK POSITIVELY NO MATTER HOW HARD LIFE HAS BECOME"  This will help us to also to maintain PEACE in our body, home and place of work and generally in the country</p>	<b><u>Isyaku Garba</u></b>	11/11/2014

	Ya Allah bring peace to us in Nigeria hapi Juma'at Kareem	<b><u>Ahmad Hassan Rafso</u></b>	7/11/2014
	"NOTHING WORKS SO EVER CAN BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT PEACE"	<i>Retired Colonel Mukhtar Garba, Director Security, Northwest University, Kano</i>	28/10/2014
	These aged Nigerians are pensioners, their pressing need is just their pensions and gratuities...they are both Christians and Muslims, what they need are leaders that will wipe away their tears and ensure service delivery...According to them, those that destroyed this country are fake religionists and those that professes Islam and Christianity as a cover...We met recently at Kaduna Junction...	<b><u>Samuel Aruwan</u></b>	28/10/2014
	Each and every developing country need peace in order to succeed. I pray for peace and harmony to our dear nation. Ameen.	<b><u>Bilkisu Muh'd</u></b>	28/10/2014
	I what i pray for my country is what i pray 4 myself my fellow broda and sisters lets pray for peace in our nation	<b><u>Abiola Smart</u></b>	22/10/2014
	A must read  Truth will build peace if every individual sincerely acknowledges not only their rights, but also their own duties towards others. Justice will build peace if in practice everyone respects the rights of others and actually fulfils their duties towards them. Love will build peace if people feel the needs of others as their own and share what they have with others, especially the values of mind and spirit which they possess. Freedom will build peace and make it thrive if, in the choice of the means to that end, people act according to reason and assume responsibility for their own actions.(John Paul 11, Message for World Day of Peace 2003)	<b><u>Huzaifa Yakub</u></b>	21/10/2014
	For the records purposes: citad4peace is a platform to promote peace, peaceful coexistence and national unity as the preconditions for the sustainable development of our country. It is a platform to share ideas on peace building, promote news about success stories in peace efforts and campaign and mobilize citizens to take action in peace building, knowing that peace is a collective responsibility. This not a political platform and we would like to urge users to keep in mind that this is a non-partisan platform. There are many other politically established platforms	<b><u>Yunusa Ya'u</u></b>	18/10/2014
<p>And we would like to urge users to keep in mind that this is a non-partisan platform. There are many other politically established platforms where robust debates on politics and candidates take but please let us in this</p>			



## CHAPTER 7: PEACE MESSAGE INFOGRAPHICS

By Sufyan Lawal Kabo



*"You may now have the guts to chant violence, but when victimized, you may not even have a voice to speak."*



[www.citad4peace.org.ng](http://www.citad4peace.org.ng)

 PEACE NOW and Peace Now!



*Love, tolerance and patriotism  
are some of the stakes of peace*

[www.citad4peace.org.ng](http://www.citad4peace.org.ng)

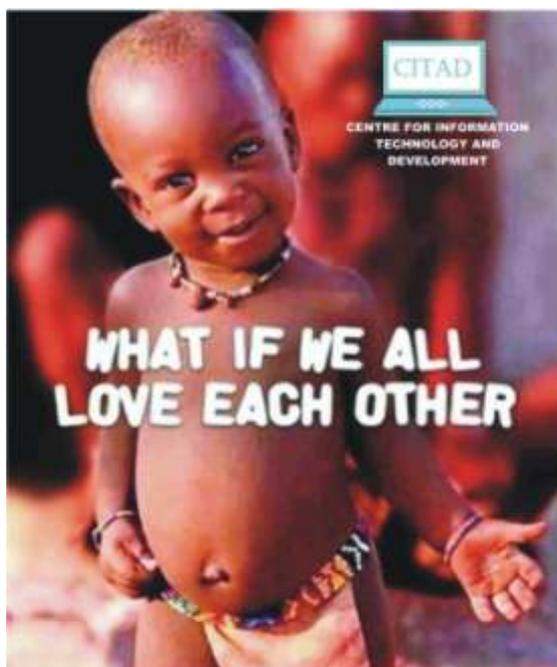


PATRIOTISM

LOVE

TOLERANCE





[www.citad4peace.org.ng](http://www.citad4peace.org.ng)





WHENEVER THEY ASK YOU...  
"From which region are you?"  
SAY...  
"Nigeria as ceased regionalism,  
I am only a Nigerian!"  
[www.citad4peace.org.ng](http://www.citad4peace.org.ng)



**CITAD | SWORKING**  
**ON PEACE**

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“Hello My Uncles, Aunties,



please live in peace  
for the sakes of us,  
your little angels.”

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**CITAD PEACE**

Promoting peace through ICT

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**Nigerian YOUTHS we want to Transcend Sectarian and Ethnic Violence and Ethnic Violence**



THEY DON'T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN BECAUSE THEY WANT TO USE US TO ACHIEVE THEIR POLITICAL AMBITIONS.

[www.peacenow.org.ng](http://www.peacenow.org.ng)



PEACE NOW and Peace Now!



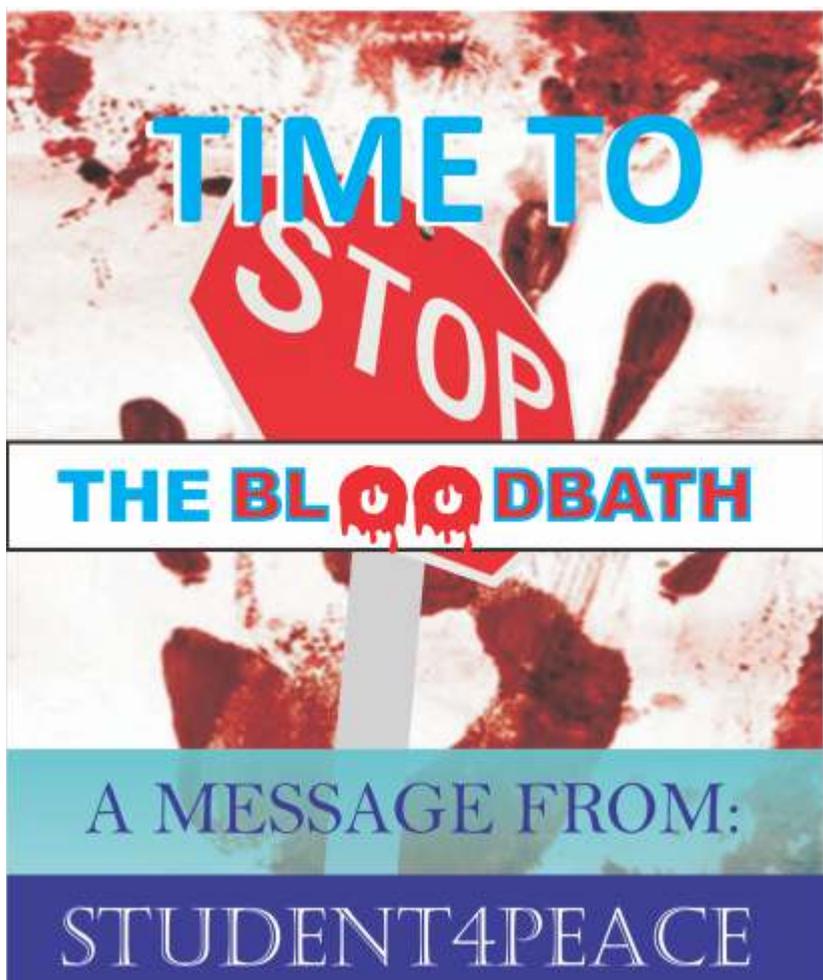
**“You can make a difference today by standing up for peace.”**

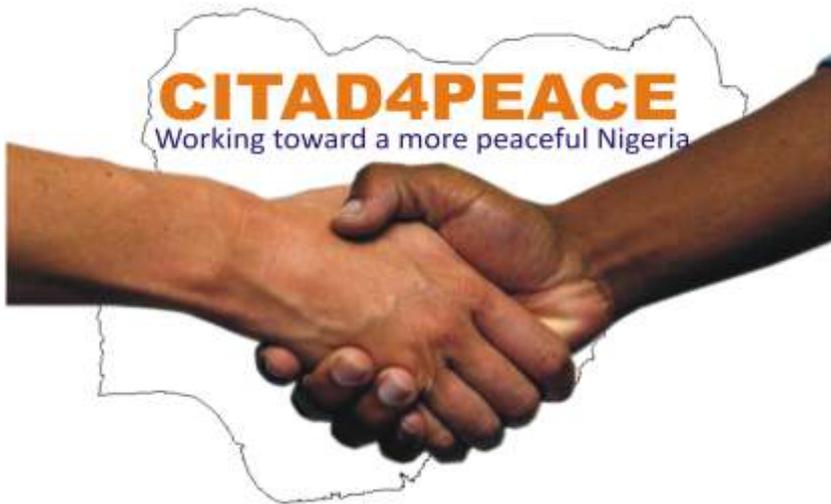
-Sufyan Lawal Kabo

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**BE PART OF *CITAD's* CAMPAIGN AGAINST  
HATE/DANGEROUS SPEECH**

- ABSTAIN FROM IT**
- DISCOURAGE IT**
- REPORT IT**



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DEVELOPMENT



We are all Children of Adam  
LET'S LOVE ONE ANOTHER

*"Hate hurts the HATER  
more than the hated."*



**STOP**  
**HATE/DANGEROUS**  
**SPEECH**



CENTRE FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT

*Once HATE is gone,  
you will be able to deal with pain.*

**STOP HATE SPEECH!**

 Peace Now



**CENTRE FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT**



BY EMBRACING PEACE, WE CAN MAKE THE  
WORLD A BETTER PLACE FOR OURSELVES  
AND GENERATION UNBORN.

**CITAD4PEACE**

**“HATE IS  
TOO GREAT  
A BURDEN  
TO BEAR.”**

*- Martin Luther King Jnr.*



**STOP HATE/DANGEROUS SPEECH**  
**COURTESY OF**



**CENTRE FOR INFORMATION  
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## ABOUT CITAD

CITAD ([www.citad.org](http://www.citad.org)) is a capacity building civil society organization whose activities covers research, advocacy, training and publicity in all areas of ICTs. Its vision is; a knowledge-based democratic society free of hunger while its mission is; using ICTs to empower citizens for a just and knowledge-based society that is anchored on sustainable and balanced development.

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