



**PRESS RELEASE**

**NGWA NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, USA (NNAUSA), INC.**

1333A North Ave, P.M.B. #540, New Rochelle, NY 10804  
Tel: 914 275 3887

DECEMBER 27, 2010

**NNAUSA CONDEMNS GOVERNOR T.A. ORJI'S STATEMENT AGAINST OBIINGWA LGA FAMILIES**

**T**he Ngwa National Association, USA (NNAUSA) Inc., the umbrella Organization of the Ngwa people in North America, unequivocally condemns the statements made by the Governor of Abia State, His Excellency, Governor T.A. Orji against the people of Obingwa LGA at a Grand House Reception in Lagos that is currently being circulated in the internet media network—You-Tube. (See You-Tube website: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tqi3KAaAMg0> for details).

In response to a question asked by a member of the audience, the Governor stated as follows "...You are from Obingwa and that is the Local Government where you have the highest rate of kidnapping and that is the Local Government where it is a well-known fact that every family manufactures arms..."

The Governor's statement, in essence, says that every one, every single family from Obingwa LGA is an associate and accomplice in the crime of kidnapping. We vehemently condemn this statement by the Governor against the innocent people of Obingwa LGA. This is not the type of statement one would expect from a Governor against the helpless citizens he has failed to protect as their properties were destroyed and their lives terrorized. The Governor ought to know better.

The genesis of kidnapping is not unrelated to the lack of governance and leadership in the State; and the reason it has exacerbated is that it has taken such a long time for the government to confront it. Rather than blame the same people who have been suffering tremendously with the pestilence of kidnapping without protection, the governor should be addressing how to create employment for the idle youths by utilizing the never-accounted for federal government allocations to the state.

It is instructive for Governor T.A. Orji to understand that Obingwa LGA families and indeed all Ngwa/Ukwa families, are hardworking law abiding citizens who became victims of kidnapping and armed violence by unscrupulous elements within Abia State, whose genesis is not unrelated to the corrupt practices of elected officials. For 3 years, the people of Ngwa/Ukwa cried in vain as they were left unprotected against the brutal-

ity and terrorism unleashed by the hoodlums that went from kidnapping for ransom, torture, rape to execution of victims. It took the kidnapping of school children, some of them less than three years old, for the crime to get the attention it deserved from the Federal and State authorities.

Consequently, we demand as follows:

1. That the Governor not only retract this unfortunate generalizing statement against the people of Obingwa LGA but also tender an unreserved apology for his blasphemy.
2. That the Government institutes an "Independent Truth Commission" to investigate the genesis of the kidnapping crimes, who were behind it, how it propagated; and make recommendations to ensure that it never happens again.
3. That the Commission should embark on an aggressive fact-finding investigation of the Abia State kidnapping episodes especially around the Ngwa/Ukwa area utilizing the services of seasoned police officers, prosecutors, security agents and others with proven experience and expertise in crime investigation and criminal indictment. All those suspected of involvement in these crimes must be prosecuted in a tribunal, the "Abia State Kidnapping Tribunal" to be specifically set-up to ensure the speedy trial, conviction and punishment of the convicted criminals.

Most civilized societies, when confronted with a public issue of this magnitude, would institute an independent commission, to discover the truth of what actually happened; and more importantly, to provide actionable recommendations that would ensure that it never happens again. Instead of Governor T.A. Orji blaming and accusing Obingwa LGA citizens who are indeed victims of the crimes, he should help to ensure the establishment of the "Independent Truth Commission" on Kidnapping in Abia State so that no one would be left in doubt about those who were and still are behind the kidnapers and who funded and protected their criminal activities. We are hoping that the Governor will take these actions or prompt the Federal Government to do so without delay.

**SIGNED :**

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President and CEO

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National Council Chair

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Treasurer

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**NNAUSA COMMENDS THE MTF IN ABIA STATE**

**T**he Ngwa National Association (NNAUSA) Inc., the umbrella Organization of Ngwas in the North America commend the Military Task Force (MTF) deployed in Abia State and in particular in the Ngwa/Ukwa area to fight the kidnapping and other crimes that engulfed the area in the last few years. We commend the dedication and diligence with which the Military Task Force has carried out its duties under the leadership and command of General A.S. Audu and Major-General Sarkin Yaki Bello as well as Lt. Col Oporum, and we are highly impressed by the successes the operation have achieved and the consequent reduction in kidnapping and other violent activities within the area since its commencement. We also extend our praise to all individuals and groups that have worked so hard to

facilitate the operation of the Task Force.

We are particularly elated that the hard work and tenacity exhibited by the soldiers and their Associates have led to the elimination of the notorious and dreaded kidnap kingpin Obioma Nwankwo, alias Osisikanwu, who has terrorized innocent citizens of the area for the past several years. We are urging the Military Task Force, once more, not to relent on their mission until the kidnapping and other violent crimes are completely wiped out from the affected areas including any potential for regrouping. We also expect that the Military shall continue to exhibit the same degree of professionalism and discipline that they have shown since the commencement of their operation.

**SIGNED :**

*Ellelenta Nwambisi Elele, Ph.D.*  
President and CEO

*Mazi Sany Nwankpa*  
Chair, National Council

*Alwell Nwankwoala, Ph.D.*  
National Secretary