



Nigeria Muslim Forum (UK)

Suite 102, 95 Wilton Road, London, SW1V 1BZ; website: www.nmfuk.org

12th Zhul-hijjah, 1429 AH/
10th December 2008

Press Release

(For Immediate Release)

NMF (UK) Strongly Condemns the Recent Massacre in Jos

The Nigeria Muslim Forum UK (NMF-UK) strongly condemns the recent ethnic and religious crises in Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria, which led to the loss of hundreds of innocent lives including children. We ask Allah in His Infinite Mercy to forgive the shortcomings of the departed souls. May He also grant us all the fortitude of bearing this great loss, and may He light our souls with wisdom of understanding the essence justice and equity ameen.

There is no doubt that no religion condones killing and destruction of properties, the most disheartening is always in our Nigerian context where the culprits always escape justice, sometimes due to political bias the government pardoned similar offenders. We therefore strongly request that a full investigation be carried out by an independent, balanced and unbiased committee. Details of such inquiry must be transmitted publicly in a transparent and uninterrupted manner, so that justice and equity could be carried out without any further delay to redress this issue once and for all.

We in the Forum call on Federal Government to pay compensation (diyya) to all those that loss their loved ones and such compensation should be taken off directly from Plateau State's allocation, so that the administration may effectively understand the gravity of their inactions if translated in monetary terms. The local governments concerned on the other hand, should be obliged to take the responsibility of boarding the widows as well as training their children up to University level.

Allah has brought us together despite our affiliations to Islam, Christianity and other ethnic preferences; this is for us to understand one another and how best we could be our brother's keepers not the opposite. Some collective, very serious and effective measures must be taken on the part of the Government, Media, Religious institutions, Law enforcement agencies and the wider community to see that similar crises does not happen again. These should include both long-term and short-term measures, since there were similar crises that happened in the past, the recent being that of Yelwan Shendam. It is sad to note that nothing has been done by the government to avert the re-occurrence of such tragedies. The government should strive to protect the lives and properties of its citizenry and the leaders must be reminded they would have to account before Allah on all their actions and inactions.

We in the Forum call on our elder states-men, religious leaders, and the law enforcement agencies to stop shying away from the truth of the matter. They should remember that justice delayed is justice denied. The perpetrators must therefore be brought to book, otherwise, such genocide incidences would continue to resurface since the past actors went unpunished. A word is certainly enough for a wise.

As always, we pray to Allah to help us in changing ourselves seriously and effectively, so that we can deserve good leaders who care for the masses and may He bring everlasting peace, justice and tranquility in our beloved country, ameen.

Mahmoud Muhammad Garba
(Mahmoud.M.Garba@nmfuk.org)
Deputy Ameer, NMF(UK)