

BACK TO FATHERLAND NIGERIA? - A NIGHTMARE!

The deportation of hundreds of Nigerians, and of course killing, massacring , maiming, beating and humiliating others residing in various parts of Europe and North and South America, Britain, France, Italy, Austria, Germany, Belgium and most recently Australia, China, South Africa, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, is a regular exercise by security agents and ordinary citizens of these named countries. Many able-bodied Nigerian youths are as well languishing in foreign prisons today. Such reports in daily news don't worry Nigerians leaders and even ordinary Nigerians, parents and elders. Many more young men and women are seriously in search of visitors to leave Nigerian borders for these dangerous corners of the known and unknown places.

Reports confirm that Italian police whose special duty it is to seek out and deport "illegal aliens" often refuse to carry out such orders when they find out that the Africans to be deported are Nigerians. They are unable to confront violent Nigerian youths who refuse to be deported and are always ready for bizarre showdown with police. In more than five occasions in the past few years scuffles with violent security agents who usually do not fail to manifest their hatred for Africans have led to the death of victims. Many reported incidents involving the death of Nigerians occurred in Germany, Austria, Belgium, Malaysia, China and Thailand

What a shameful tragedy! Reports of death by drowning of hundreds of African youths, particularly Nigerians who secretly and illegally board western ships and boats sailing from West African coasts to Europe, Asia, and North America are no fairy tales. Why should these African lads die in such a shameful manner?

The deportation has continued unabated and as well has continued to generate reactions from human rights movements all over Europe and America. According to agency reports, the deportees are repatriated following irregularities discovered in their visa requirements coupled with phony claims to the effect that they were victims of political unrest under the past dictatorial regimes. Today, the main reason for spending thousands of dollars to purchase foreign visas is simply *in search of greener pastures!!* Whatever may be the reactions of those affected there is need to reflect on this phenomenon. What is the way out of this shameful predicament?

NIGERIANS REACT TO KILLING AND HUMILIATION OF THEIR KINSMEN AND WOMEN IN FOREIGN LANDS

PHARAOH IN GOD'S PLAN?

- The persecution of Pharaoh made the children of Israel willing to go home. Otherwise they were too willing to forget their origin, their covenant relationship with God and settle down to eat and to play in Egypt. Go home is not a curse. Everyone has a homeland, whether it be in the Ultramodern high-tech world or in the forest jungle. Home is home. It is time to build our own nations. We have lived long enough in exile. Nigerian is a blessed land and every Nigerian should be proud of that. *[J.J. Ofsaka]*
- We must harness the God-given resources that lie beneath our soil and develop our brain power for the benefit of all Africans. The deportation is not a curse but a blessing in disguise. We cannot continue to suffer brain drain to enrich other nations with those human resources. Let us analyze our situation and creatively evolve a solution to give our nation a face-lift. I sympathize with those that are affected but let no one cry like those with no hope. There is hope for every Nigerian if we understand our potential and harness it for the good of all. *[Elise Brown]*
- We should therefore pray to avert this coming disaster..." Since when did it become a disaster to return to one's homeland? Black people seem to pray for everything except the single most important prayer and that is, for the Lord to help us to return home. For at home the Lord has blessed us with everything we need. Instead we choose to remain slaves in foreign lands and now so called prophets, are even saying it is a curse and a disaster to return home. No wonder they call us niggers, and describe us as been "lower than the lowest of slaves, a slave shall they remain to their brothers, forever" *[Francis Tell]*
- I strongly support the attitudes of those who insist that we must return to our fatherland and not just hang on in foreign lands. I know you guys are going back soon, and so am I. The frustration is too much and once my education is complete plans to return will commence. Why should I be here in the first place is the question? I have been indirectly kicked out of my own country due to selfish rulers jeopardizing our education system. Believe me I will be willing to play my part on my return implementing all I have learnt. *[Osakue Iyamu]*

- Even though I do not condone the idea of painting "home" as badly as depicted by the critics of Africa and the black world, I will sooner die in a foreign land than to be killed by my own people - be it either by armed robbers, kidnappers, soldiers, police or by the mere frustration of our society. My heart is with those deported and hope they find a way out
[Aiye Toto]
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SWEET

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SWEET

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HOME!

"There is nothing like home," is a universal adage. No matter the odds, home is sweet. The longing to get back home after some few years, months, or even days is a natural feeling of everyone who has a home. Exiles long to return home. Refugees, people driven away from their homes by political and religious persecution often have the urge to visit home. Bitter or sweet home is the natural abode of all living creatures - human kind and animals.

In the wild world of endless jungles, vast and bottomless seas and oceans, animals and creatures of rivers, seas, and oceans mark their territories. Often bitter struggle over territorial boundaries lead to the death of many wild beast that fight to defend their areas of operation. They detest any infringement on their "personal" territories or homes. After traveling miles in search of food and water animals return to their marked areas of habitation.

While most peoples of the world immigrate to other parts of earth for one reason or another and settle in their new homes for a short time or permanently for the rest of their lives, there are others who for many bitter reasons vow never to return to their fatherland. Their plight is a desperate one. Some of the reasons behind the African search for new homes are obvious. Some would be ready to return to their fatherlands if the obstacles on their way to happiness and self-realization are removed. But that a few would fight to the last drop of their blood, and die in the battle to avoid deportation can be disturbing.

A CALAMITY! FOOD FOR THOUGHT - ISN'T IT?

- We are stranded here. If someone gave us a ticket to leave South Africa today we would gladly take it - but only if the destination is anywhere other than Nigeria." (*Stranded Nigerians in South Africa*)
- "Such is the desperation of Nigeria's youth, that they are willing to gamble their future in any country but their own, which, they feel, has failed effectively to use its own natural resources, namely, its citizens, as a result of rampant and economic mismanagement." (Chinedu N.)

- "They came to find their fortune - instead they lost their souls." (*Emeka Nwandiko*)
- "So many Nigerians have to leave their country because of hardship to seek greener pastures, leaving a potential one behind. Who wants to be in a foreign land, where one has no self esteem, where one is laughed at by riff-raffs who by virtue of their color are assumed to be superior. Having stayed here for some years, I do not see the advantage I have over a progressive colleague back home." (*Okafor N. Houston, USA*)