

23rd August, 1994.

From: HON. DR. BARINEM NUBARI KIOBEL
C/O NO. 7 NZIMIRO STREET
OLD E. R. A.
PORT HARCOURT.

To: HIS EXCELLENCY
GENERAL SANI ABACHA
HEAD OF STATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
THE PRESIDENCY
ABUJA FCT.

PLEA FOR INTERVENTION FOR MY RELEASE
AND REINSTATEMENT AS HONOURABLE COMMISSIONER
FOR COMMERCE AND TOURISM - RIVERS STATE

My Dear Sir,

Greetings to you. It was on 18/5/94 when Our State Administrator for Rivers State His Excellency Lt. Col. D.M. Komo called all Commissioners in Rivers State and ordered that we should all go to Our respective Local Government Areas to oversee smooth conduct of the election into the National Constitutional Conference '94.

As his serving Commissioner representing Ogoni Land I obeyed and went. Also the Gberemene of Gokana had invited me to attend a Meeting for my reception copy of the invitation which I attach herewith; an occasion I was to use to enlighten the Gokana people on need for full participation of the people in the election scheduled for 23/5/94.

On arriving from Port Harcourt at 10 am prompt to attend the Meeting at scheduled time, I found only one Chief Nalelo. As a serving Commissioner I was not going to wait to receive invitees into the meeting but courtesy demands that I should instead be received. I left after waiting for 40 minutes and the people were not coming. I left at this point to attend yet another meeting with Kpor Council of Chiefs on OMPADEC Projects in the Community.

While there, I sent a motor cyclist to go and check at Giokoo Venue of the Gokana Central Meeting if the people had reported, the man, one Mr. John Barika came back to report that the meeting was on when a sudden riot erupted. And the life of everybody in attendance was in danger; which made for a call by the Gberemene of Gokana to send for me to intervene as one in Power, and who having taken several peace initiatives in Government, for the welfare of the Ogoni people in particular and State in general, Commanded a great deal of respect of the people of the entire Ogoni. I could not but to respond to this call by H.R.H. the Gberemene of Gokana H.R.H Chief J.P. Bagia at whose instance palace this meeting was convened. As a serving Government representative called upon to salvage the people in such danger, I took every administrative step expected of one in my capacity, risking my life in an antagonistic atmosphere amidst antagonistic remarks and castigating me as "Komo's Son and Abacha's Agent"

being in government all these from my people, beatings as I tried to find out from source, the cause of the riot and the way possible that I can salvage the situation.

My utmost desire and bid to censuring on the spot of peace, being that Port Harcourt was forty (40) miles away from Gokana area, I quickly went to the Military troop Commander at Bori and reported. There, I met Hon. Chief Kente Giadom, jointly again we reported. But the Military troop Commander, Major Stephen, objected to sending his men. on grounds that the sight of Military or law enforcement agents would escalate the riot. well, this was when we were ignorant of the extent or rate of the disaster done. Again according to the Military troop Commander he relies much on me since he was always on all peace preaching campaigns, I was leading into the nooks and cranny of the Ogoni area and my reconciliatory bids of Ogoni with all her war neighbours. These to name but a few, he explained informed his objection to follow or sent his Military men immediately.

On his orders, I returned back to Gokana to address, the people to refrain from taking the laws into their hands. Again there was a big revolt even against me. Because, I am in Power and do not again believe in their ideals. "This is why, I had since swearing into office, being protecting and defending government". I went away to my very home - KPOR to pick up my belongings for Port Harcourt. As I was trying to go out I noticed that I have been ambushed and advanced incursions were now coming towards my home. On grounds that, should I go back to Port Harcourt, I was going to report for Military enforcement. I went into hiding, for my dear life, having tried my cellular phone to my State Administrator and there was inscription "NO SVC" on. All my persistent and several efforts to get him or ADC with the cellular phone still had "NO SVC". I had to remain into the hiding, at a remote hut at the streams, end of the Community until about 12 Mid-night when the ambush relieved with the Military presence.

It was then I made my way to Port Harcourt. On arriving at about 1.30 am, fear down my nerves, and pains compounded by the fact that the State Administrator may have gone to bed at such dead of the night and a superior would not need to be troubled at such late hour. I rested only to go and see him by about 6 am Sunday morning. Still quite unawares of the Brutal murders of my elders. He then gave me security men to accompany me to the scene of incident and to report back.

Just to ascertain the extent of damages. On our return, he asked me to go and give report of findings to the SS Director in the State and from there to SLIB and so I remained incarcerated in cell till today for a thing I am completely Innocent. Uptil now he had never on my return from the facts findings, given me any audience, but only surprisingly:

1. Thrown^{me} into detention since 22/5/94.
2. My appointment terminated for obeying instructions and carrying out orders given by my Administrator.
3. Treated so contemptuously with other Ogonis who were jeering at me, calling me names such as "Komo's Son and Abacha's agent.

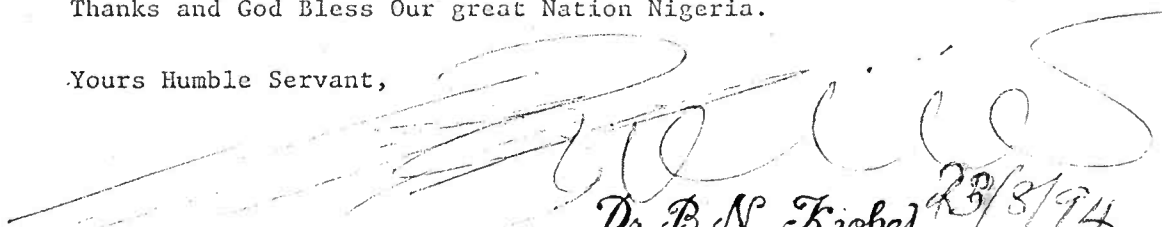
4. While I am out-rightly supporting this Administration and have worked very hard to the bringing about general acceptance and co-operation among my Ogoni people inspite of castigations anti-Ogoni movement by some, is it wise for the same government to continue detaining me innocently along with criminals and terminating my appointment ?
5. My removal from office have serious implications for Ogonis and the Federal Government of Nigeria as follows:-
 - 5.1 Ogonis are already too marginalised in Rivers State Government positions and it's parasatal appointments an issue not to be ignored .
 - 5.2 Ogonis now have no member in Rivers State Executive Council. A right it well deserves for her 500,000 population out of 4,000,000 Rivers people.
 - 5.3 By above calculations it means then that Ogonis are not represented both at State or Federal Level in Government or their parasatals a pointer to play into hand of agitators which must be avoided by this government which I count Myself as part and parcel of .
 - 5.4 As an ogoni son who had vowed to maintain peace, unity and progress of Nigeria Nation giving it the pride of Giant of Africa. I believe in dialogue and believe that because God's anointing on me things that were impossible to achieve with the Ogonis could be achieved peacefully and not by force that would tarnish the image of Nigeria internationally or domestically.
6. Having made above points, I am requesting of you to intervene into my matter immediately as follows:-
 - 6.0 Appeal to the Military Administrator of Rivers State Lt. Col. D.M. Komo to:-
 - 6.1 Order my release from detention soonest because I committed no crime in obeying to carry out instruction given by my Superior.
 - 6.2 That my presence at Meeting of Gokana people on 21/5/94 was only to honour:-
 - 6.2.1 Call by the Gberemene of Gokana and entire Gokana people who called me to plan my reception.
 - 6.2.2 To use the occassion to address the people on need to participate and vote at National Constitutional Conference Delegate election of 23/8/94 which was a delegated official assignment I was only obeying to carry out.
 - 6.2.3 That at eruption of riot as Commissioner representing the Government of Rivers State and Federal Government of Nigeria in the area, I did not run away. I stood up to the challenge courageously attempting to arrest the situation and because it was already out of hand before I arrived, Immediately reported to the Military Commander at Borri for joint action, in the interest of Rivers State and the Federal Government of Nigeria.
 - 6.3 I hereby request that I re-instated as Honourable Commissioner For Commerce, Industry and Tourism Rivers State since my removal cannot be traced to any deficiency in discharged of my responsibilities or dishonesty or disloyalty to the Government or any proven evidence of my complicity in any crime.

6.4 That the Federal Government may appoint me into any other Federal Government reputable office whereby I can use to convince my people that after all we are not completely neglected.

Sir, I thank you while looking forward for your kind co-operation and caring to effect my immediate release to regain my freedom.

Thanks and God Bless Our great Nation Nigeria.

Yours Humble Servant,



Dr. B. N. Kiobel 23/8/94

Dr. Barinem Nubari Kiobel