

St. Jude the Apostle Parish

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September 15, 2017

Congresswoman Robin Kelly
600 Holiday Plaza Dr.
Suite 505
Matteson, IL 60443

Dear Congresswoman Kelly,

My name is Fr. Ignatius Ikechukwu Anaele. I am the pastor of St. Jude the Apostle Church in South Holland. I was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1998. I have served as the pastor of St. Jude for nine years.

I am sending you this e-mail to draw your attention to what is happening in South East Nigeria. South East Nigeria has a population of over forty million people. They are mostly Christians.

Within the past two weeks, the president of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari, deployed the military, consisting of mostly Muslims, to South East Nigeria. Innocent and unarmed civilians are being killed.

President Buhari is scheduled to address UN General Assembly in New York on Tuesday, September 19th. He is also scheduled to meet with President Donald Trump on this trip. I appeal to you to call the White House and strongly urge President Trump to ask President Buhari to:

- Stop military advancement in South East Nigeria
- Start open and peaceful dialogue with the people of South East Nigeria comprising of the Archbishop of Owerri and IPOB.

I earnestly plead with you to look into this matter. The situation in Nigeria weighs heavily on my heart because I was born in the South East of Nigeria during the Nigerian Civil War of 1967-1970. It has always bothered me that the world was silent while almost two million Igbos of South East Nigeria were massacred, many of them were children who were starved to death. If President Buhari's actions are not checked, what is going on in Nigeria today will lead to another genocide of the Igbo people of South East Nigeria. Will the world remain silent again? The world was silent during the 1994 Rwandan genocide. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. reminded us in his "Letter from the Birmingham Jail", "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all."

I strongly believe your call to the White House will save innocent lives. I sincerely thank you for your action on this issue.

Yours Sincerely,
Rev. Fr. Ignatius Ikechukwu Anaele

cc: Senator Dick Durbin
State Senator William Davis
State Senator Napoleon Harris, III