



AFRICA METHODIST COUNCIL

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Africa Methodist Council Condemns the Killing of Young People in Africa

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

The Africa Methodist Council (AMC) condemns in the strongest terms the horrific and inconceivable acts of extreme violence against the young people of Africa. In our recent statement the AMC Call To Action, The AMC made its stand clear against religious and civil violence. Despite the United Nations (UN) calls for ceasefires across the world to halt the spread of COVID-19, fighting and terror attacks have not stopped in many parts of the continent, with heavy civilian and military casualties.

Unfortunately, in the past few weeks we experienced the agitation of young Nigerians who had been on the receiving end of violent and unpleasant encounters with law enforcement agents especially the State Anti Robbery Squad and this climaxed in peaceful protests under the banner of the #ENDSARS movement. However, this has been hijacked by unscrupulous elements leading to untold violent attacks and the unwarranted loss of life.

On the night of 20 October 2020, the peaceful protesters were attacked and live bullets were shot at them by some people in military uniform at the Lekki toll gate in Lagos State, Nigeria. The number of casualties is still unknown. However, there have been complaints about missing persons (friends and family members), and a few were confirmed to be hospitalized, there has been no definite claim of responsibility from the government as to who the officers are and on whose orders they acted. This has resulted in further, now violent protests and looting.

The story is even more appalling in Kumba in Cameroon where some unidentified gunmen moved into Mother Francisca International Bilingual Academy in Bamilike Street, Fiango Kumba and opened fire on students in a classroom. Of the twelve assaulted, six were killed and the others who were seriously injured were rushed to a nearby hospital. This incident is not unconnected with on-going socio-political strife in the North- West and South- West Regions of Cameroon.

AMC aligns itself and reiterates the pronouncement from the Presbyterian Church of Cameroon in a statement signed by the Moderator Rt. Rev Fonki Samuel Forba on the 25 October 2020 that : ***“all life is sacred and God given; consequently it must be preserved by all. The spilling of human blood is a curse on the earth.*”**

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The right to education is universal and fundamental to human development –It must not be obstructed. War and violence are false securities, in the long term, they cause more problems than they intended to solve. This war must stop.

Our young people deserve a better life and we call on all nations on the continent to remember that:

“Everyone, everywhere has the same rights as a result of our common humanity. We are all equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination. These rights are all interrelated, interdependent and indivisible”

“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.” Article 1, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The rights of our young people to demand good education, good roads and infrastructure, employment opportunities, good governance, improved security without police brutality and harassment should be upheld. The voices of the children and youth are mightier than the guns we use against them.

We call on all stake holders especially the government agencies to give clear statements on the incidences as a matter of urgency in order to calm tense nerves. We further call on the governments to use the tools at their disposal to quell the raging protests and unify their people. The COVID -19 pandemic already has the continent on its knees and together we need to do more to extinguish the wild fires that have the potential to raze the little we have left to the ground.

In pain and deep sorrow we stand with the parents and family of deceased students of Mother Francisca International Bilingual Academy and the young people in Nigeria who have been killed by the “Unknown Soldiers” at Lekki Toll Gate in Lagos, Nigeria and many other parts of Nigeria. May their souls rest in peace.

May Jesus the Prince of peace, move over our continent and calm every storm to the glory of God the father.

Yours Respectfully



Very Rev Opeyemi Awe
AMC General Secretary