

The Nigerian Think Tank Group (NTTG) Worldwide *Placing Humanity above the Politics of Nations*

PRESS RELEASE

AN URGENT APPEAL MESSAGE FROM THE NIGERIAN THINK TANK GROUP (NTTG) WORLDWIDE.

MY NAME IS ADERONKE TOMORI. THE CHAIR OF THE NIGERIAN THINK TANK GROUP (NTTG) WORLDWIDE. NTTG WORLDWIDE IS A NON-PARTISAN, NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATION.

IT COMPRISES A BODY OF TECHNOCRATS WITH THE MOTTO, "PLACING HUMANITY ABOVE THE POLITICS OF NATIONS".

WE ARE AT WAR WITH BOTH NATURE AND OURSELVES IN TODAY'S SICKLY WORLD. YES! WE CAN PREVENT WAR. THE DECISION IS OURS. IT IS NOT AN EASY CHOICE TO MAKE. BUT IT IS POSSIBLE.

VIRTUALLY ALL OF THESE WARS ARE MANMADE. THEY THEREFORE CAN BE SOLVED BY US.

CURRENTLY, THERE ARE ABOUT 32 GLOBAL CONFLICTS IN THE WORLD. THEY INCLUDE UKRAINE, SUDAN, THE MIDDLE EAST, AND GAZA.

THE BELIEF IN FIREPOWER THESE DAYS HAS LED TO NOT EMPLOYING MEDIATION, NEGOTIATION, AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION TO THE FULLEST, BEFORE RESORTING TO WAR.

WAR IS THE FLAGRANT AND WANTON DESTRUCTION OF HUMAN LIVES AND PROPERTY.

THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER CONVENTIONS HAVE BECOME TOOTHLESS BULLDOGS, WITH AGREEMENTS OPENLY FLOUTED.

NO MORE REVERENCE FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW, OR THE RULES OF WAR. RULES THAT SHOULD BE ADHERED TO, AND NOT SELECTIVELY APPLIED. HUMAN LIVES NO LONGER MATTER.

THE WAILING VOICES, OFTEN OF INNOCENT CHILDREN, TOO WEAK TO BE HEARD UNDERNEATH THE WRECKAGES OF BOMB-SHELLED STRUCTURES, AND OF WOMEN, WHOSE HUSBANDS SHALL NEVER COME BACK HOME AGAIN ARE COMMONPLACE.

MEMORIES OF BLOODY BODIES, PEOPLE RUNNING HELTER-SKELTER, AND CRIES OF LONE CHILDREN AMIDST RUINS SHALL LIVE WITH THE SURVIVING VICTIMS, AND MANY OF US, FOR AS LONG AS WE LIVE.

NTTG THEREFORE INVITES WORLD LEADERS, THOSE WITH INFLUENCE, ESPECIALLY THE SO-CALLED SUPERPOWERS, TO ENGAGE IN BOUNDLESS TALKS.

A SLOGAN IN THE UK IN THE 90s SAYS, "IT IS GOOD TO TALK". WE INVITE WORLD LEADERS TO EMPLOY THAT CRUCIAL WEAPONS OF MEDIATION, AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION THROUGH CONSTRUCTIVE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUES. WAR SHOULD NEVER BE THE ANSWER. DIALOGUE IS A LOT CHEAPER THAN WAR.

ATTACKS AND COUNTER-ATTACKS WASTE IRREPLACEABLE HUMAN LIVES. IT WOULD SURPRISE YOU TO KNOW THAT, ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THOSE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE ISRAEL-GAZA WAR ARE CHILDREN, AND WOMEN.

"WHEN TWO ELEPHANTS FIGHT, THE GRASS SUFFERS". A COMMON PROVERB OF KENYAN ORIGIN.

LET US PUT ASIDE POLITICKING AND FIREPOWER SUPREMACY FOR THE SAKE OF HUMANITY. "TWO WRONGS DON'T MAKE A RIGHT", THEY SAY.

IT IS HIGH TIME WE RECALIBRATED OUR APPROACH TO SUSTAINABLE WORLD PEACE, AND SECURITY.

WE SHOULD PRACTICE LORD BUDDHA'S MESSAGE OF COMPASSION, NON-VIOLENCE, AND INTERDEPENDENCE. WE NEED TO COME TOGETHER AS ONE, BUILD TRUST AND TOLERANCE, AND BRING HONESTY AND FAIR PLAY TO THE FORE.

ONE OF OUR MAJOR CONCERNS RATHER THAN UNNECESSARY WARS, SHOULD BE TO ADDRESS THE ASSAULT ON OUR FUTURE EXISTENCE DUE TO GLOBAL WARMING.

THE DECADES-OLD ISREAL-PALESTINE CONFLICT MUST BE PUT TO REST ONCE AND FOR ALL.

THE BILLIONS OF DOLLARS THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN USED TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE IS SQUANDERED ON SHOW OF STRENGTH, THROUGH THE DESTRUCTION OF LIVES.

MAHATMA GANDHI ALWAYS MAINTAINED THAT THE MAGNIFICENT DIVERSITY OF OUR HUMANITY SHOULD BE A TREASURE, AND NOT A THREAT.

VIOLENCE CAN NOT, AND WILL NOT PROVIDE LASTING SOLUTIONS TO CONFLICTS.

WAR ONLY DESTROYS. IT DOES NOT CREATE ANYTHING GOOD. IT LEADS TO DEATH, DESTRUCTION, POVERTY, AND DISEASE.

NTTG WORLDWIDE THEREFORE SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXTEND OUR DEEPEST, AND UNRESERVED COMMISERATIONS, TO THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS OF WAR ALL OVER THE WORLD.

WE CALL FOR THE IMMEDIATE AND TOTAL CEASEFIRE IN THE GAZA STRIP, AND ALL OTHER WAR ZONES.

THIS MUST STOP NOW. END THE SUFFERING. PEACE AND FREEDOM WALK TOGETHER.

I END WITH A QUOTE FROM AN ADDRESS BY THE FORMER US PRESIDENT, JOHN F KENNEDY IN WASHINGTON ON 10 JUNE 1963.

"GENUINE PEACE, THE KIND OF PEACE THAT MAKES LIFE ON EARTH WORTH LIVING, THE KIND THAT ENABLES MEN AND NATIONS TO GROW, AND TO HOPE, AND TO BUILD A BETTER LIFE FOR THEIR CHILDREN. NOT MERELY PEACE FOR AMERICANS. BUT PEACE FOR ALL MEN AND WOMEN. NOT MERELY PEACE IN OUR TIME, BUT PEACE FOR ALL TIME."

Aderonke Tomori (PhD) is a Peace Ambassador of the Women's Federation for World Peace, and the current Chair of The Nigerian Think Tank Group (NTTG) Worldwide, a non-partisan, not-for-profit think-tank group which comprises a body of technocrats with the motto, 'placing humanity above the politics of nations', with headquarters in the United Kingdom.