

**JALINGO RESOLUTION ON PEACE AND RECONCILIATION BETWEEN
THE JUKUN AND TIV IN TARABA STATE, NIGERIA**

We, Traditional Rulers, Elders; political, church, community and youth leaders from the Jukun, and Tiv communities in Taraba and Benue States here present;

Cognizant of the fact that since September 2001, a series of consultations and workshops on peace and reconciliation among and for the various Jukun and Tiv opinion leaders had been organized in Mkar, Wukari, Abuja, Gboko, Makurdi, Suntai, and Jalingo by the Peace, Justice, and Reconciliation Committee of the Reformed Ecumenical Council of Nigeria (RECON) and its Implementation Committee (IC), assisted by the Christian Reformed Church of North America, and facilitated by Professor Hizkias Assefa of the Africa Peacebuilding and Reconciliation Network;

Having attended the fourth consultation in Jalingo between August 28 and 31, 2003;

In our quest for durable peace in our region, having had the benefit of receiving the blessings of His Highness Aku Ka Dr. Shekarau Angyu Masaibi Kuvyo II, and his Highness Orchivirigh Dr. Alfred Akawe Torkula, Tor Tiv IV;

Having examined thoroughly the causes and consequences of the conflicts and armed confrontations that have been ruining our communities;

Having identified the mistakes done in the past and expressing not only our remorse but also exchanging our sincere forgiveness to each other;

Determined to create a new chapter in the lives of our communities especially for our children who have suffered from insecurity, hatred, loss of education, employment and, in general, lack of a promising future as a result of the recurrent conflicts and wars that have taken place in our communities; hereby agree as follows:

- I. We commit ourselves to work together hand in hand for the establishment of durable peace and reconciliation in our respective regions in Taraba State, Middle Belt Region of Nigeria. We hereby take responsibility, starting with ourselves, to inculcate in our respective communities the value and need for peace, reconciliation and harmonious coexistence. We undertake to work individually and collectively to diffuse tension between our peoples and to seek peaceful channels to address any grievances or differences that might arise so that they do not degenerate into unhealthy rancour and violence.
- II. We acknowledge that the Tiv people who have traditionally resided in Taraba state would be considered indigene to the land and have commensurate rights and responsibilities. Any other persons who move to Taraba from other states for purposes of farming should follow and abide by prescribed traditional and legal requirements for the acquisition of land in the area. We also agree to work

with our peoples to stop the practice of greedy acquisition of more and more farmland which has the potential of squeezing other residents out.

- III. We recognize that the lack of respect for each other's culture and the failure to recognize traditional authority in Taraba has caused a great deal of animosity and conflict among our peoples. We hereby agree to work with our respective communities to recognize and accept traditional and constituted authority in the former Wukari Division of Taraba. We also undertake to help our peoples learn about each other's cultures and traditions, as well identify some of the cultural practices that are obstacles to community coexistence in order to find mechanisms to deal with these practices so that our communities could live with each other with mutual respect. To assist in this regard, we request our cultural associations to promote understanding by involving Jukum and Tiv people in each other's festivals and public cultural practices.
- IV. We commit ourselves to cooperate with each other to bring about the material and social reconstruction and development of our ruined communities in former Wukari Division and elsewhere. To this effect we shall collectively work to mobilize private as well as local, state and federal government resources and assistance.
- V. We hereby agree to conduct our economic relations in such a way that we include and support each other for mutual gain (such as entering in joint ventures) in order to avoid jealousy and unhealthy competition that can bring a downfall for all of us.
- VI. We agree that all residents of Taraba should pay legitimate taxes, levies and dues to appropriate authorities. Revenue collection must be legal, transparent, and properly received.
- VII. We commit ourselves to report to proper law enforcement authorities people who commit crimes in the names of our respective communities or behave in ways that could spark ethnic conflict so that such people are prosecuted or restrained and ethnic relations in our region are not damaged.
- VIII. We agree that from now on traditional names of villages, towns and markets should not be changed without consultation between the leaders of both communities. Any existing disputes over change of names should be handled locally through consensus in the affected communities.
- IX. We agree to share elected and appointed offices in our regions in Taraba equitably. We resolve to support political candidates for office in local, state or federal government positions across ethnic lines not just on the basis of ethnic identity but on the bases of the candidate's capacity to bring about development and prosperity for our communities and his/her integrity to uphold justice and fairness in our region. There are precedents of this kind of political relationship among ourselves in the past, going as far back as the 1950s. We agree to learn from the mistakes done in the past so that we avoid the consequences that have bitterly divided our communities politically along ethnic lines.

- X. We recognize that years of mutual suspicion, fear and animosity cannot be erased overnight. We are committed to work towards the elimination of these barriers by undertaking the following confidence building measures:
- A. We commit ourselves to improve our interpersonal relationships across ethnic lines, i.e., to visit one another, to socialize with each other individually and in group, to do things together, etc. so that our people also begin to emulate our behaviour and break the barriers that the conflicts in the region have erected between them.
 - B. We hereby call upon our Traditional Rulers, Elders and church leaders to intervene to reunite families that had been separated or divided as a result of the violence and conflicts in our communities.
 - C. We call upon our religious leaders to take an active role in promoting reconciliation and unity among our peoples at all levels of our communities. They should lead us by example and encourage prayers and fasting for reconciliation and unity. We request them to help us to worship and fellowship with each other without regard to our ethnic background. We specifically call upon the relevant leaders of the Reformed Church to work to bring the three denominations of NKST, CRCN and RCCN together.
- XI. We hereby call upon our state government of Taraba to assist, in whatever way possible, our efforts in establishing durable peace and reconciliation in our region. We request the government to expedite the demarcation of the boundary between Taraba and Benue since that has been the source of several conflicts in the past.
- XII. We have hereby created follow-up committees for each of the two affected local government areas of Wukari and Donga in order to pursue the implementation of the agreements in this document and to act as bodies that would liaise with the Peace, Justice and Reconciliation Committee of RECON for any future activities aimed at promoting durable peace and reconciliation in our region.

Done in Jalingo, on August 31, 2003.

NAME	TITLE	SIGNATURE
1. Mal Abe Shishi	District head, Gidan Idi	
2. Hon Samuel T. Adda	Commissioner, National Election Commission	
3. Evang. Bala Zhema	Dir., Min. of Local Governments, Taraba State	
4. Hon Stephen Ikyaa	Former Councilor, Wukari LG	
5. Hon Simon I Tor-Musa	Former Chairman, Wukari LG	
6. Mr Joseph S. Zhema	Community Leader, Wukari	
7. Hon Paul B. Agyu Likita	Former Councilor, Wukari LG, Youth Leader	
8. Mr Samuila S. Tanko	Educ. Secretary, Donga Local Govt.	

9. Dr Jonathan A. Karshima	Medical Director, Jos	
10. Eder Ezekial Bala Habu	Elder CRCN, Gu Wukari	
11. Edward Yebduya Atiku	District head, Dongo	
12. Mal Ibraibim Binga	Member, Traditional Council, Donga	
13. Mr Nathan Sambo	Staff, Wukari Traditional Council	
14. Mr Danasabe Adi	Community Leader, Wukari	
15. Mr Wunukhen A. Ali	National Chair, Jukun Youth Assoc.	
16. Mr David Bisen Agbu	Sec. Jukun Youth Assoc., Wukari	
17. Mr Aulugh Audu	Chairman, Tiv Cultural Assoc., Ibi	
18. Mr. Sure Akalepa	Member, Wukari Traditional Council	
19. Hon David Mtuem	Former Member, House of Assembly, Gongola	
20. Rt Rev Dr. N.N Nyom	Bishop of Makurdi, Anglican Dioc.	
21. Chief A. Adom	Opinion Leader, Donga	
22. Tor Daniel Mbaturen	Ward Head, Dan Anacha	
23. Hon. Anchi Emmanuel	Former Advisor, Wukari LG	
24. Mr Kyuleve Torngu	Principal, GCSS Takum	
25. Mr Jolly A. Angyu	Civil Servant, Min. of Agric., Taraba State	
26. Mr Ben Bala Suleiman	Director of Finance, CRCN	
27. Hon Simon Awua	Former Member, House of Assembly, Gongola	
28. Elder David K. Abochol	Community Leader, Donga	
29. Mr Dennis O. Nev	Secretary, Min. of Health, Taraba State	
30. Mr David Tyokighir	Development Consultant, CRC, Jos	
31. Mr H.M Senwua	Lecturer, College of Educ., Katsina Alla	
32. Mrs Dinah M. Ihindan	Lecturer, College of Educ., Katsina Alla	
33. Mrs Gloria Mngutar	Lecturer, College of Educ., Katsina Alla	
34. Rt. Hon Ugba Uyeh	Former Member, National Assembly	
35. Zaki Joseph Gbaa	Chair, Tiv Communal leaders, Bali	
36. Ver Rev B.A Vanger	Principal, Church Leader, Makurdi	
37. Chief Nege Jonathan	Education Sec., NKST, Mkar	
38. Mrs Comfort Ahur	Lecturer, College of Educ., Katsina Alla	
39. Rev A.K Shamkega	Leader NKST Church, Kyado	
40. Rev Nathan O Ioryenge	Leader NKST Church, Awange	

41.HonMsuega Aondoveda	Former Councilor, Wukari LG	
42. Hon Joseph Agule	Former Speaker, Donga LG	
43. Mr Shaaghaa Adagba	National Chairman, Tiv Cultural Assoc.	
44. Hon Dooga Gbashi	Commissioner TSIEC	
45. Hon Binuga Gargae	Community Leader, Donga	
46. Hon J. H Meeme	Former Chairman, Katsin Ala LG	
47.Hon Isaac Waako	Auditor, Wukari LG	
48. Barrister Jime Yongo	Attorney, Opinion Leader, Makurdi	
49. Com Abochol S. T	Labour Leader, Fed. Min. of Works	
50.Pastor Peter Msule	Church Leader, Makurdi	
51. Mr. Daniel A. Ugbede	Former Chair, Tiv Cultural Assoc.	

Witnesses:

Professor Hizkias Assefa, APRN
Facilitator/Mediator

Rev. Joseph Kukwen, Chairman PJRC

Rev. Musa A Manasseh, Secretary PJRC

Rev. David Bura, member PJRC

Mr. Bulus Ali, member PJRC

Rev. Joseph Adure, member PJRC

Rev. Phillip Aboki, member PJRC

Mr. George Maiangwa, member PJRC

Rev T Mkena Member PJRC