

Terror in Kafanchan

By Greg Jones (22) 66-68

Background: Friends of Nigeria has sponsored VSO volunteers working in Kafanchan with the Fantsuam Foundation. Through them we learned about the Fantsuam Foundation. I visited Kafanchan and Fantsuam during the FON trip to Nigeria in 2008. I was very impressed. Friends of Nigeria has made microlending through the Fantsuam Foundation one of our main fund-raising efforts. John Dada is the leader of the Fantsuam Foundation, and, IMHO, a visionary.

Post-election violence has been especially destructive in Kaduna and Kafanchan. While estimates of the number of people killed vary, John Dada said they used mass graves to dispose of the bodies. The market in Kafanchan was burned to the ground, and many people lost their cash on hand and inventories, as well as their places of business. Here is an early email from Bala, a member of the Fantsuam Foundation staff:

“Thank you for your concern, all FF (Fantsuam Foundation) staff are fine physically right now though three had their houses burnt along with all their possessions. Things are a bit calmer now and there are military personnel all about town to keep the peace. During the fighting most of the staff of the general Hospital fled, leaving FF clinic as the only source of immediate first aid and treatment in town. As a result dozens of people were treated for gunshot and machete wounds. Our medical supplies and staff have been stretched really thin though we have been able to purchase essential medication from Jos.

“There is no market in Kafanchan any more, so people are having to go to Jos to buy food and other essentials, I have had to do the same. No banks are open and everything is at a standstill. Now that things are getting calmer, I think one of the most pressing concerns will be the reconstruction of homes that have been burnt down. Its rainy season now and so many people have lost their homes and means of liveli-

hood. Also, there is no place where they can buy food, some people go to other towns to buy food, but I know very soon people will exhaust whatever cash reserves they have and will need to earn money.

“In the short term, we need to make available food, shelter and medicine for those with no homes/displaced, in the medium term we need to find ways to facilitate the rebuilding of livelihoods and reconciliation.”

This sounds much like the violence that swept the north soon after Training Group 22 arrived in September, 1966. Armed gangs roaming the streets attacking anybody who happened to come from the wrong place or belong to the wrong tribe. This following an election that international monitors have declared to be one of the most honest in recent memory. Clearly the notion that “this is our turn” trumps an honest electoral result.

We in FON can sit back and cluck about how terrible such violence is. Or we can work with the organizations we have developed relationships with in the past and try to build the bridges that are the only way out of this mess. The Fantsuam Foundation is one such organization. We know what kind of work it is capable of from what it did in peace time. I had a late-night Skype conversation with John Dada. It was much later for him (4AM) than it was for me (10PM), but his attitude was that you have to take advantage of NEPA power when they happen to provide it. Here are a few quotes from the conversation:

John Dada: Yes, our backbone is still microfinance. We have about 2,000 active clients. Many southerners sent their wives and children home, but some are trickling back now. We have been able to make contact with about 60% of our clients.

Greg: What % of your clients were southerners? Northerners? In-betweens?

John: The bulk of our clients, 70%, are from the Kafanchan area, 20% southerners, and 10% from far north.

Greg: How bad was the violence? Any estimates of how many were killed?

John: No accurate records, but mass graves had to be used for burial. The attacks were late in the night about 1.00am, so it was devastating. There is now an uneasy calm as armed security men are all over the place, on 24-hour patrols.

This is why we are keen to get economic activities going for all sides. We think the orgy of violence has petered out and folks are desperate to restart their lives. Women remain the key to the peace of our communities. The women are still in contact across the divides: they are married on both sides: Christians and Moslems. We think it has to be stick and carrot: economic progress for peace. While I think it has dawned on all that we have to live together; the pains and hurting will take some time to heal. I think it is important to start the process by getting peace activists on both sides to start working to rebuild the peace.

Yes, it is the immediate needs we have been grappling with: food, shelter, clothing and security. We now need to engage

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Happy Anniversary to Us!

Looking for a great way to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps? How about attending FON's annual meeting September 22-25, 2011, in Washington, DC! Not only will we be celebrating the anniversary of the Peace Corps, but FON's annual meeting will provide you with opportunities to gather with your Nigeria RPCV friends, wine, dine, reminisce and even give your input on the direction of FON.



The Sheraton Crystal City in Arlington, VA, will serve as our host and headquarters (for the FON-sponsored room rate of only \$119 per night!) and is conveniently located to provide access to the full range of Peace Corps anniversary activities being conducted in

(Continued on page 2)

President's Column

By Mike Goodkind (16) 65-67

Like the world around us, this newsletter reflects a bit of joy, a bit of business and a bit of tragedy.

First, I hope everyone will be inspired to take action after reading Greg Jones' article on recent violence in Nigeria, and the immediate effect it is having on people with whom FON has a relationship — the Fantsuam Foundation and its clients. An important connection is Teleri Jardine, one of the VSO volunteers we help support, who was among the first to let us know of the tragedy unfolding in Kafanchan. Please respond as you are able to the need by being as generous as you can to our current emergency appeal. If there is any upside to this tragedy it is that Fantsuam has thoughtfully put together a constructive response that we can be part of.

The Peace Corps has been prominent in the news in recent months as a Congressional hearing probes the security risks faced by Peace Corps volunteers, following reports of sexual violence against serving volunteers. Since there are no Peace Corps volunteers in Nigeria, this issue may seem not relevant to FON, but I beg to differ. We're told that potential security issues are a major factor in whether PCVs will be deployed to a new (or in Nigeria's case, a long absent) country of service. And I have received notes from several of our own colleagues who noted that the current attention to the issue has raised unpleasant memories about incidents they chose not to discuss for years or decades. FON, as well as each of us as individuals, need to

advocate for responsibility and security for a new generation of volunteers and aid workers overseas — in whatever nation they may be challenged to work in.

On a cheery note, we hope everyone who reads this will try to attend our 50th reunion activities. FON's theme here is a connection to the broader overseas service community, as represented by the Peace Corps celebrating an anniversary and to each other as many of us reflect on careers and look for ways to enrich our lives. We are reaching out to expand our FON community beyond the traditional Peace Corps or even VSO/CUSO and other overseas service constituents to include host nationals and anyone who can help keep the lorry rolling. As the newsletter and our GoogleGroup and website indicate, we have a lot of irons in the fire.

You will see in this issue a list of candidates for our Board of Directors, the group that keeps an eye on moving our philanthropic, social and advocacy efforts forward. We have plenty of opportunities for service — on the board and otherwise. We welcome additional nominations for board membership, and we are also always interested in hearing from those of you who wish to participate in other ways as well. These could include helping with our charitable giving programs, the newsletter, events, finance or special projects. If you wish to make a nomination, please follow the simple steps in Mike Malaghan's article. If any of the activities you read about or imagine strike a chord, please email me, mgoodkind@earthlink.net, and we can get you involved.

(Happy Anniversary to Us *continued from p. 1*)

Washington. Many tour companies provide outstanding tours on all things of interest in the DC area as well as pickup and return services to the Sheraton.

FON has scheduled a range of exciting events including a catered Nigerian dinner in an elegant setting for Friday evening, a private tour of the Smithsonian Museum of African Art, a hospitality suite at the Sheraton Crystal Palace, and a general session keynote speech by Stanley Meisler, author of *When the World Calls: The Inside Story of the Peace Corps and Its First Fifty Years*.

To register, complete the registration form on page 10, attach your check, and mail to Barbara Bush. If you haven't made your room reservations, do so quickly as space is limited and rooms are filling up fast! Room reservations can be made by calling 888-627-8209/703-486-1111 or by going to www.starwoodmeeting.com. Reservations may be cancelled without penalty until 24 hours before your scheduled arrival.

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Jogger Fails to Cross the Culture Gap

By Gordon Dalbey (13)

While leafing through a magazine some time ago, I found myself transfixed by a sportswear ad showing a man running. The picture didn't include where he came from or where he was going; he was simply running. And for a strange moment I was with him--not loping through a glossy layout in color-coordinated jogging shoes and warm-up suit, but in the tiny, remote Nigerian village where I had served years before as a Peace Corps Volunteer.

In a flash, I saw the one-lane bush road outside my cinder-block house, a road that ambled through jungle and scrubland to the nearest town with electricity and running water--a two-hour bike ride away. And I remembered how the adventure of the first few months gave way, through steamy-hot tropical afternoons and candlelit nights, to long daydreams about boyhood sandlot ball games.

For some time, I pondered over what, if any, sport I could play at my unlikely outpost. At last, it occurred to me that right there on that narrow bush road, under ancient layers of naturally crushed terra cotta, lay a perfect jogging path! Back then in 1965, before the advent of running shoes, I had never jogged anywhere before in my life. But at 6000 miles from the nearest sandlot ball game, I was willing to expand my sporting horizon. And so, later that same afternoon, as the equatorial sun dipped below the palm trees, I laced up my old canvas US Keds and set out running on the road, stretching my arms exultantly.

I had guessed right; its firm but resilient surface was perfect underfoot. Overhead, giant banana leaves seemed to wave me on amid the squawking cheers of myriad birds invisible in the surrounding palm trees.

Just as I was about to hit my stride, I heard the distinct rattle and whirr of oft-repaired local



Gordon now.

bicycles. In seconds, I was joined on either side by two cassava farmers, pedaling their way back home from the fields after a long day's work in the equatorial sun.

Managing my best American Peace Corps smile, I turned each way and nodded to them without breaking stride. To my surprise, they slowed and did not pass. Holding even with me, they stared.

"You got trouble?" one asked gravely.

"Oh...(puff)...no," I said, holding my pace. Again, I smiled quickly to each side.

"You need help?" the other farmer urged.

"Uh...no...(puff)...thank you," I wheezed. "No help. Everything... (puff)... OK. Thank you...(puff)."

The soft, chipped clay crunched beneath my feet as the two bicycles rattled along beside me. Ahead, a chuckhole the size of a manhole cover loomed; as the bicycles swerved, I leapt it and continued. The two drew back beside me.

"You run," one noted.

"Yes...(puff). I run...(puff)."

"You run...," the other repeated, hesitating. "Where?"

With some discomfort, I shifted my stride. I was out of shape, and had expected the running to get difficult, but carrying on a conversation at the same time was beginning to tax my patience. "Up the road!" I snapped.

"You run up road," the two echoed.

Rattling and whirring together, they looked ahead and, seeing only the same road and trees that they and their ancestors had seen for generations, they turned back to me with blank expressions. For a brief second, their mutual bewilderment slowed their pedaling, and I strode ahead. Catching themselves, they pulled even with me again.

"No trouble. You run. Up road." Brow furrowed, the one farmer spoke studiously, as if writing the problem before himself on a mental blackboard, the more clearly to grasp its components.

"WHY you run up road?" the two burst out at once.

It was no use. I did what is forbidden to all joggers. There, beneath the wav-

ing banana leaves and cheering birds, I stopped. We all stopped. Panting, sweating in the humid dusk, frustrated at being interrupted on my very first jog, I struggled to remain calm and American Peace Corps friendly.

"You want to know...(puff)...why I am running up the road," I offered, panting, "...right?"

Standing patiently beside their bicycles, they nodded.

"Right," I repeated, stalling as a feeling of being oddly out of place crept over me. Drawing a deep breath, I exhaled matter-of-factly. "OK, I am running to get exercise."

"Ex-er-cise?" one echoed, as the other looked up the empty road ahead, his brow knit in confusion. "What is 'ex-er-cise'?"

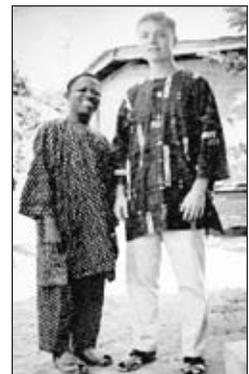
For a long second, I stood there, mouth open, beginning to sense the scene's absurdity: two thin, overworked, barefoot cassava farmers sitting astride broken-down bicycles that represented a measure of their success; an over-caloried white man in canvas shoes running nowhere to get something that no one had ever heard of.

Words failed me. Where we stood, farmers had for centuries harvested barely enough calories to continue toiling in the fields. We were an arm's length apart, but a hopeless cultural gulf yawned between us.

Lifting my shoulders, I spread my hands, palms upward, and shook my head helplessly. At last, clumsily, I reached out and shook each man's hand. "Thank you... for stopping to check on me," I said, faltering. "You...you are good friends."

And then, wiping my brow quickly, I turned and ran back to my house.

[Excerpted from his book *Broken by Religion, Healed by God* (Civitas Press, 2011)]



Gordon and his cook in Umuezeoka (near Abakaliki) c. 1965

Service in Abuja Inspires a Vocation and an Avocation

By Robert Englund (11) 64-66

In the summer of 1964, I began my the Peace Corps training program for Nigeria XI at Teachers College, Columbia University as one of the many “AB generalists” of that era. My subsequent two-year assignment as a high school science teacher at the Abuja Secondary School was challenging, interesting, and personally satisfying.

I find it difficult to believe that Abuja now is a huge capital city of five million people, whereas in 1964, it was a quaint little town of three or four thousand people. Electricity and sewage disposal were not available, and a couple of town wells provided poor quality water; petrol was available only about half the time, and the fuel was dispensed with a hand-cranked pump. Nonetheless, people lived very simple though happy lives.

The school, like many of that era, was of the British tradition. The graduate faculty was multinational, and a superb group of matriculated boarding students came from a fifty-mile radius around Abuja. Thanks to earlier PCV’s, Abuja Secondary School had the only flood-lit basketball court in Nigeria—perhaps the only one in West Africa. (The reflectors of the lights were crafted from the ubiquitous kerosene tins.) The teachers were extensively involved with the students in athletics and the entire spectrum of extracurricular activities.

Volunteer school-vacation activities steered me into my professional career, and an Abuja recreational/artistic endeavor guided me into my prime avocation as I approach full retirement.

Michael Cardew, a well-

known British potter, had established the Abuja Pottery in the early fifties. Recognizing the talent of the native Gwari and Hausa potters, he had built a successful operation located just across the road from our school.

The Pottery attracted occasional tourists to Abuja. Two such visitors were a Danish Lutheran husband-wife physician missionary team. With my expressed interest in science and laboratory studies, they invited me to spend a school vacation week with them at the Numan Mission Hospital where I became a self-trained lab technician with a focus on parasitology. Over the next eight months, I spent a total of six additional school vacation weeks with exposure not only to the lab but also to clinical medicine.

In my final months at Abuja, I undertook a project of analyzing urine and stool specimens for parasites on our three hundred students. I also arranged for the dispenser of our town to treat the students for the identified parasites. The survey consisted of groups of thirty students each placing a dab of stool into a labeled match-box and a specimen of urine in labeled test tubes.

My analysis of the specimens with the school’s microscope showed that nearly 85% of students had one parasite, 35% had two parasites, and about 15% had three separate parasites. I was pleased to have been able to arrange treatment

for these students, improving their overall health.

In subsequent months, I focused on my own career, and medicine became an obvious choice. I took my “MCAT” (Medical College Admission Test) at the US Embassy in Lagos, and with the Ambassador being away, I enjoyed the luxury of sitting at his desk in one of the few air-conditioned offices in all of West Africa.

After my return home, in 1966, I was one of the first RPCV’s to be applying to medical school. Without question, my experiences at the Numan Mission Hospital and my initiative in the parasitological survey of our students resulted in my acceptance to the University Of Vermont College Of Medicine. Subsequently I have been told that my original research in the parasitological study of the students should have been published in an infectious disease medical journal at that time.

I graduated from UVM in 1971, and post-graduate training included one year of medical internship at Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse and two years of Internal Medicine Residency at the University of Oklahoma. I also spent two years as a physician at the Indian Health Service Clinic in Shawnee, Oklahoma as an alternative to military service.



Bob Englund (left) in Nigeria



Bob Englund now.

In 1976, I began a successful thirty-five year career as a general internist at Cheshire Medical Center-Dartmouth Hitchcock/Keene in New Hampshire. Keene has been a wonderful community for my wife, our four children, and me. In addition to extensive involvement in numerous activities, I have been on City Council and the YMCA Board. My wife has served on many non-profit boards, and she taught English at Keene High School for many years. Now, as full-retirement approaches, I have been focusing on my avocation of woodturning.

During my second year in Abuja, I also volunteered at the Abuja Pottery, averaging six to ten hours per week as a potter. I vividly recall discussions with Michael Cardew and his successor Seamus O'Brien in which we would have extensive, prolonged, and detailed con-

versations about pottery design, shapes, proportions, wall thickness and other technical aspects of vessel design.

Now as a woodturner, I often refer back to those exchanges of more than four decades ago because those fundamentals of shape and design apply equally to woodturning. For pottery, one starts with a blob of clay and shapes it into an attractive vase. For woodturning, however, the craftsman places a large block of wood into the lathe; it spins while the turner uses chisels to shape the wood eventually to create a shape which could be similar to the potters clay vase. The potter adds glaze and fires the pot in a kiln. The woodturner, taking advantage of the unique grain pattern and irregularities of the wood, adds several coats of varnish for the perfect finish of the item.

In fabricating wooden lamps, vases,

and bowls, I have chosen a style which includes segments of bark, split surfaces from the woodsplitter, bark inclusions, arrested decay, and unique interfaces between the heartwood and sapwood of logs. As a juried member of the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen, my products are displayed for sale in their galleries, and I have donated many lamps and vases for the silent auctions of numerous local non-profit organizations.

Without question, my Peace Corps experiences in Nigeria as a lab technician at the mission hospital steered me into my long and successful career as a physician. Likewise, my work at the Abuja Pottery guided me into a most enjoyable and productive retirement avocation as a woodturner.

Peace Corps and Ashoka: Celebrating Anniversaries and Collaborations

By Jim Clark (acting editor)

While the Peace Corps is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, the rapidly growing Ashoka network is announcing the celebration its 30th. Both organizations benefitted from the vision and passion of Sergeant Shriver, the dynamic force behind the creation of the Peace Corps who later provided ideas and inspiration for the creation of Ashoka and served as a member of the Ashoka Council.

With initiatives, staff and fellows in 29 active Peace Corps countries and 22 countries where the Peace Corps previously served, there continue to be strong engagements between the Peace Corps

and Ashoka. Former Peace Corps volunteers have served as trainers for Ashoka Fellows and several are now serving as staff members. Last summer, FON made a one-time donation to Ashoka, an investment that assisted in the launch of Ashoka Fellows in Nigeria and India. Other Peace Corps alumni associations are supporters as well.

Have any of our Nigeria RPCV's had any involvement with Ashoka as trainers, staff members, etc? If so, we are interested in hearing your story.

More details on Ashoka are available at <http://ashoka.org/story/peace-corps-and-ashoka-celebrating-anniversaries-and-collaborations>

Letters to the Editor



To the Editor

I was in Nigeria 18 and have lost my group handbook. I plan on attending the 50th Anniversary in September and was wondering if someone would be kind enough to send me a digital or hardcopy, the better to help me identify you all.

Paul Trotta (18) 65-67

VSO Blogs

Emily Bullock (UK) 2010-
Cicely Brown (UK) 2008-10
Glenn Dodge (Canada) 2008-9
Wil van Koningsbrugge (the Netherlands) 2006-7

<http://www.emily-in-nigeria.blogspot.com/>
<http://cicelyinnigeria.blogspot.com/>
<http://acanuckamuck.blogspot.com/>
<http://www.wilvankoningsbrugge.whereareyou.net/>

FON Board Nominees Announced

By Mike Malaghan (25) 66-69

The Friends of Nigeria Board of Directors has submitted a list of nominees for board membership for the upcoming year. The list includes those board members seeking reelection as well as several individuals who were appointed by the board to fill interim appointments. The 11 board positions currently authorized by the Board are being contested by the 12 candidates listed below. If you are interested in nominating someone as a director, you are encouraged to do so.

As stated in our by laws, nominations are accepted right up the start of our biennial meeting: *“Any full member may nominate any member, including one’s self, by submitting a nomination, together with the endorsement of five other full members, to the secretary prior to the closing date for nominations adopted by the Board.”* You may submit a nomination by emailing it to Mike Malaghan at mgm@malaghan.net.

Voting will be conducted at the FON annual meeting in Washington D.C. during the September 23-25 Peace Corps 50th year reunion celebration. We will also publish a ballot in the next newsletter scheduled for September for those of you not able to join us for the celebration.

Personally, it has been a pleasure to serve on the board. I will miss exchanging all those emails and trying our best to direct our limited funds to worthy projects in Nigeria.

Meet the FON Board Member Nominees:

Peter Hansen (27) 66-68

A co-founder of Friends of Nigeria in 1996 (with Cathy Onyemelukwe), since then I have served on the board and as treasurer and database manager. I also volunteer with the Iowa City Foreign Relations Coun-



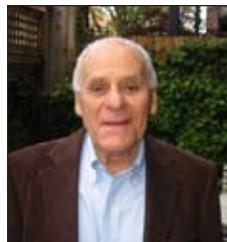
cil, Council for International Visitors to Iowa City, ACLU, and AAUP. A retired chemistry professor, I keep in touch by tutoring University of Iowa athletes. For fun I am active in the Iowa City Bird Club and the Prairie States Mushroom Club.

My wife Katy and I were members of Nigeria 27 (1966-68), living in Ibadan. I taught chemistry at the University of Ife and Katy taught math/chemistry at the Ibadan Grammar School.

I believe that Friends of Nigeria fulfills a valuable purpose by serving as the alumni association for Nigeria Peace Corps Volunteers, by keeping its members informed about events in Nigeria, and by promoting continued service to the Nigerian people.

Murray Frank (Staff) 61-64

I arrived in Ibadan in September 1961 with my wife and two young children. After three exciting years as Western Region representative, I returned to Peace Corps/Washington for a year. Then for a couple years, I directed train-



ing programs for PC and VISTA at the Columbia School of Social Work (but not for Nigeria).

I retired a dozen years ago from a public policy research and teaching institute at University of Massachusetts, Boston and remain slightly related. I volunteer tutoring an Adult Basic Education program at a local community center. I serve on local boards, including the alumni board of the Heller School, Brandeis, where I earned my PhD.

After fifty years, my Peace Corps experience sticks. Notwithstanding the violence and misery there now, it is important for me to stay connected to Nigeria and the Peace Corps people who served there.

Warren Keller (23) 66-67

I grew up in small-town Kansas, graduated from Kansas University with majors in math and chemistry, and started graduate work in chemistry in 1963 at the University of California, Berkeley in the 60s changed my life, and



I’ve lived there nearly continuously ever since.

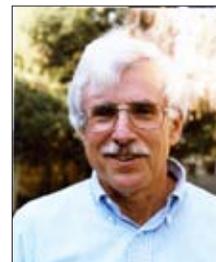
One excursion, of course, was Peace Corps, another life-changing experience - a year teaching in Uli, being evacuated from Biafra, followed by a second Peace Corps year teaching in Uganda.

Returning to Berkeley in 1968 I spent the next 32 years working for IBM as a systems engineer and as a data base instructor until retiring 10 years ago. My wife Jody (also Peace Corps Nigeria/Uganda) and I have three children and three grandchildren.

Interests now include family, hiking and backpacking, travel, and volunteer activities. I’ve been a FON board member and newsletter editor since fall 2006.

Mike Goodkind (16) 65-67

I was a rural development volunteer assigned to the then-new Ministry of Rural Development at Mgbo near Abakaliki in the East/Biafra. I then became one of only a handful of folks to have served in



both the Peace Corps and the military in Vietnam.

I spent most of the ‘70s at Associated Press, mostly as an editor, before becoming an information officer (hack) for Stanford Medical Center. In 2001 I morphed into

a media consultant, mostly for medical facilities.

I joined the FON Board in 2001 and became your president a few years later.

Andy Philpot (VSO) 65-67

I joined VSO immediately after graduating from university. I taught in the Mid-West from 1965 to 1967. Although we were not told about culture shock in our week of training, I had my hands



full as not only did I have to adjust to Nigeria but also had to Americans as I was surrounded by PCVs.

After Nigeria, I immigrated to Canada, met Anne who worked for CUSO

and we then spent three years teaching in rural Zambia. Back in Canada in 1973, I ended up teaching in a private school until I retired in 1999.

Having stayed in contact with many of my RPCV friends, I was foolish enough to contribute a couple of articles to the FON newsletter and in 2001 found myself recruited to the FON Board. Then much to my surprise, I found myself editor of the newsletter for the next five years.

Greg Zell (Nigeria 6) 62-64

I served as a science teacher at the Ansar ud Deen Muslim Girls High School, Lagos from 1962 through 1964. I passed the bar in 1968. Currently, I am employed by a Fortune 300 company as an in-house counsel.



I was the founder and three term President of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of South Florida and been a Board member since founding in 1986.

I served five years as a President of Friends of Nigeria and have remained on the board for another nine years.

Greg Jones (22) 66-68

I taught English and Maths in a Craft School in Maiduguri 1966-68. Upon returning home, I worked in the computer industry for 10 years, developing some actual skills. Then I attempted to recreate the Peace Corps experience, just this time with some hard skills working 2 years in Iran as a computer consultant in 1976-77.

I helped out with the FON web site many years ago, and my son helped set up the first rendition of the website.

My wife and I participated in the return trip to Nigeria and, while there, took a side trip to visit Kafanchan and evaluate The Fantsuam Foundation as a potential recipient of FON support for microlending. We were incredibly impressed by the leaders of Fantsuam, John Dada and Kazanka



Comfort. Since then I have been a strong advocate of Fantsuam, both within FON and locally.

Barbara Bush (11)64-66

I served in Nigeria XI as a teacher in Sapele teaching English, French, Math and science. Upon returning home, I settled in Boston, MA.

My career was spent working on mainframe computers for several Boston businesses as a programmer, systems analyst, systems programmer and data base administrator. After retiring in 2002, I volunteered



for several community groups assisting an eighth grade math teacher, tutoring students, teaching English as a second language, and mentoring an extended family of Somali-Bantu refugees.

I ran for state Senate in 2010 and am currently working in several political organizations.

Virginia DeLancey (04) 62-64

I taught in King's College of Commerce, Buguma, in the Niger Delta, Rivers State. Since then, I have lived on the continent for more than twelve years, teaching or carrying out research in Nigeria, Cameroon, Somalia, and Egypt. I have taught at the University of Yaoundé, Somali National University, and American University in Cairo and have been a staff member of the African studies program at both Indiana University and Northwestern University.

Each of my three children made their first trip to the African continent when they were two years old, and they have continued to visit, work, and/or live there for various periods of time over the years, as well.

I have served on the FON Board for many years. In addition to participating in general Board work, I have also tried to provide a summary of Nigeria news for each of the quarterly newsletters.

Lucinda Boyd (05) 62-64

I am an Illinois native. I was a graduate student at Northwestern at a time the Peace Corps direct mailed applications to grad students. I found out I was under scrutiny when the FBI asked my mother's neighbor about me.

I was posted to the 'Government Girls Secondary School' in Kano, Nigeria.

After the Peace Corps, I entered the field of social work. In 1971, I went back to graduate school at Tulane for an MSW. I retired from Illinois' Department of Mental Health in 1968.

I live Southern Pines, NC as did my 95 year old mother who recently passed away after a long, happy life. With my genetic expectations for longevity, at 73 I am pondering my next twenty years.

(Continued on page 17)

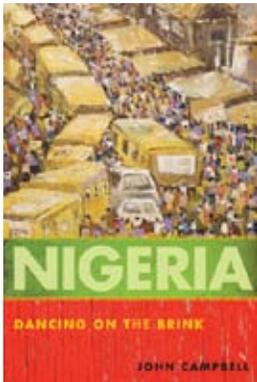
Nigeria: Dancing on the Brink

by John Campbell

A Council on Foreign Relations Book. Rowman and Littlefield, 2010, 216 pp.

(Reviewed by Charles Abbott, Adjunct Professor, International Programs, University of Iowa. Charles Abbott wrote his Ph.D. dissertation on "Nigerian hometown association and ethnic unions in twentieth century Nigeria." He was never a PCV, but lived in Ibadan (and Fiditi, Oyo State) for a year in the 1990s.)

Friends of Nigeria should read John Campbell's book *Nigeria: Dancing on the Brink*. Campbell served the U.S. State Department as political counselor in Lagos from February 1988 through July 1990. Fourteen years later he returned as ambassador and served three more



years, from May 2004 through July 2007. His first time in Nigeria was during the optimism of the early-to-mid Ibrahim Babangida (IBB) regime. His second overlapped

with Olusegun Obasanjo's second term as an elected civilian president. As ambassador, Campbell witnessed Obasanjo's failed bid to modify the constitution and seek a third elected term in office.

Returning in 2004, Campbell found Nigerians visibly poorer than when he left in 1990. Lagos was of course much bigger; the Kano he knew well in the 1980s appeared deeply impoverished. Kano's elite foreign merchants (such as the most successful Lebanese) had largely decamped, and now "throng[s] of street children, dressed in rags, begged for change and food." Abuja, by the time he returned in 2004, was Nigeria's capital in

theory and in practice.

"Dancing on the Brink" refers to Campbell's claim that for now "Nigerians have mastered the art of dancing on the precipice without falling over. Many of the elite are still convinced that Nigeria is 'too big to fail' (p. xxi)." The feeling of confidence in Nigeria's survival facilitates profoundly irresponsible behavior among its elites. Nobody knows how long this dance can last, but it currently serves the interests of the rich, powerful, well-connected Nigerians involved in politics at the highest level.

An unchanging status quo, in the face of deepening poverty and weak institutions, protects all those elites who survived (and prospered) in politics at any time since the civil war ended in 1970. These elites (active and retired)—and all who benefit greatly from proximity to them—together make up far less than five percent of Nigeria's population. But for them the political status quo is good while it lasts, and change brings huge risks. Reforms might raise the possibility that theft of grand sums is prosecuted and punished. It might also close off opportunities for self-enrichment for those who still await their big score.

How does the public feel about this? Campbell's answer is impressionistic, but he observed the "election like event" of 2007 and the general pattern since 1999—including the months of drift from 23 November 2009 while President Umaru Yar'Adua was gravely ill but nominally in power. Campbell asserts that since 1999 the public has largely withdrawn from participation in (and commitment to) formal political processes such as elections. He refuses to dignify the 2007 process with the term "election," calling it a charade or "election-like event." He also believes public anger about the 2007 charade may have been muted in part from relief that Obasanjo's desired bid for a third term ("The Robert Mugabe Option") was thwarted. He gives credit to the National Assembly for its extra-constitutional designation of Vice President Goodluck Jonathan as acting president when it was clear that

Yar'Adua could not fulfill his role.

Dancing on the Brink begins with a chapter of historical background, but the core of the book is Campbell's analysis of events since 1999. These are framed through chapters on a short set of themes: poverty, political power, faith (including religious violence), the Niger Delta, bilateral relations with the U.S., and creeping state failure (or state decay).

One of the best chapters is titled "Who runs Nigeria," in which Campbell sketches the unwritten norms of Nigerian elite politics. "The patron client system appears to have rules. A paramount one is that there is to be no president for life. Another is that patrons at the pinnacle of the networks are never killed by their rivals, though their clients are fair game. A third is that money accumulated by a political figure in office is sacrosanct (p. 29)."

If Campbell is correct, Nigeria's anarchic politics become a bit clearer. For example, big men (*ogas*) such as Gowon, Buhari, Babangida, Obasanjo, Danjuma, and Ojukwu endure after retirement, living quietly and safely to an old age. "They rose to prominence during the civil war forty years ago, have held power, lost power, and lived to play again." Sani Abacha's self-succession plan in 1998 was opposed and thwarted, and Abacha "was almost certainly murdered" for violating the rules (This frank judgment is buried in a footnote). Similarly, Abacha's store of loot was in large part recovered from foreign banks after his death, though almost everyone else has gotten to keep his since leaving office.

A key figure in *Dancing on the Brink* is former president Obasanjo. He does not emerge especially well from Campbell's treatment, largely because of his attempt for a third term as president. Campbell's verdict here is harsh, though his overall opinion of OBJ's legacy is more nuanced. Obasanjo receives high marks for his appointment and support of key technocrats such as World Banker Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala and central banker Charles Soludo. Obasanjo also established the Economic and Finan-

cial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and appointed the energetic Nuhu Ribadu to be its first executive chairman. After initially going after Obasanjo's enemies, Ribadu showed resolve and independence in choosing additional targets (including those within OBJ's own circle). He thus demonstrated that the EFCC had potential to become a powerful and autonomous agency.

Two recurrent themes of the book are (1) religious violence (purists might call it "the instrumental use of ethno-religious conflict") and (2) creeping state failure. Both of these are complicated phenomena, full of ambiguities. Campbell discusses the so-called "religious or ethnic riots," as well as the role of political Islam and *shari'a*. He also explores the threat of al-Qaeda type organizations and finds that so far there is no sign that al-Qaeda is active in Nigeria. More deeply rooted are the Islamic millenarian sects that occasionally flare up into violence (Maitatsine was an earlier manifestation in 1980). These can be characterized as grassroots radical utopian movements, perhaps drawing on Mahdist traditions of Sudan (which is historically linked closely to Bornu and Maiduguri by pilgrimage and caravan routes).

[Reviewer's note: the morbidly curious reader will find some of the best coverage of Nigeria's appalling riots to be provided by NGOs, including Human Rights Watch. In my dissertation (using figures to ca. 2004) I calculated a rough estimate of an absolute minimum of 40,000 civilian deaths in such riots since independence. They could perhaps be separable into four major waves (1. pre-civil war; 2. Maitatsine; 3. post-1985 (beginning under IBB); 4. post-Abacha). For a general understanding (and to discern how these events differ from most 20th century U.S. riots after ca. 1920) the book to browse (demanding but otherwise ideal) is by Donald L. Horowitz (2001), *the deadly ethnic riot*.]

Nigeria's drift toward state failure is disturbing, complex, and poorly understood. Campbell points to aspects of it throughout the book and devotes a chapter to extended analysis of the

phenomenon. He notes that state failure in Nigeria has intensified in some areas (policing, public order, public health, and fiscal controls) even as the country manages to assert itself on the world stage and especially in African politics, including in West Africa where it views itself as hegemon.

Dancing on the Brink is short, dense, and readable. Anyone with pre-existing knowledge of Nigeria will gain much insight from it. Parts of the book may require sustained attention, but the impatient browser who skims using the "Dr. Johnson approach" will find many tidbits that make the book worthwhile.

For example, "Many Nigerians are too poor to buy even razor blades"... "There are at least 115 Nigerian US dollar-billionaires"... "Delta militants once attacked Shell's Bonga platform, 70 miles offshore"... "Kano street urchins [assuming they survive to reach puberty] band together into religio-criminal gangs available for hire to sack churches or restaurants where alcohol is served"... "Too often, foreign friends of Nigeria prefer cheerleading to analysis"... "The Chinese are not popular in Nigeria"... "America is [perceived by Nigerians as] less racist than any other country in the developed world"... "Abuja has the unintended consequence of further separating the *ogas* (big men) from the people they govern."

There is no shortage of opinions about what ails Nigeria, hence on the internet in the 1990s it was noted that "It's no wonder the country is such a mess, because everyone who knows how to run the place is in exile, in prison, driving a taxi, or on Naijanet."

While in draft the book received careful attention from various experts in and out of academia. This is not your average book about Nigeria for non-specialists—almost no other American could have written on Nigeria with the same mix of authority, insight, appropriate reference, and telling detail. Books require readers. If you are a friend of Nigeria, read this book.

(Terror in Kafanchan *continued of from p.1*)

people's minds and help them see that there is a future. We need to help people to get to their farms quickly: if we miss the planting season, there will be hunger by October. May and June are the planting months; food storage units have all been lost to fire. We have to plant now as the rains have arrived.

In response to the immediate need, the FON board has sent \$2,000 in undesignated funds to Fantsuam to help provide seed and fertilizer for planting. In response, John Dada sent the following email: *This is a big help at this time. Our team will start purchase and distribution of fertilizer & seed tomorrow.*

Earlier, John had sent us the following longer-term proposal: Given the FON's previous focus on Microfinance, and given that this is one of the most-badly hit of the Fantsuam services, FON may want to provide a combination of grants and loans totaling N15,000,000 or \$100,000 US dollars that would be equally distributed to 500 women (N30,000 or US\$200.00 per woman) designated for use in the following manner:

- N5,000 for a one-time Grant, not to be repaid, that could be used to meet family expenses,
- N5,000 for purchase of fertilizer and other farm inputs,
- N20,000 for a loan to be re-invested into a micro-business.

Clearly, \$100,000 is far more than FON has ever been able to muster in the past. But gauging your gifts by the amount per person is a reasonable thing to do. A gift of \$600 from you would help put three affected families back on their feet. Remember: FON's support is incremental, but whatever you can donate now will have an immediate impact. We welcome the opportunity to speed your support on its way to the people who are on the scene and providing direct support at this time of heart-rending turbulence. Please use the coupon on the back page of the newsletter marking the gift unrestricted and noting you'd like the money to go to our "emergency fund."

FON Annual Meeting

September 22-25, 2011

Washington, DC

Please sign up early to help us plan the best event possible.

Name _____ # of persons _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

FON member: Yes, No, but I want information on joining, No, thanks.

FON affiliation: RPCV? Yes, group number _____ Other _____

I am coming to the September FON events. Enclosed is a check for \$120 per person.*

I am interested in a training group reunion during the weekend.

I would like to share a hotel room.

Make checks payable to Friends of Nigeria Anniversary Celebration and mail check and the completed form to:

Barbara Bush
30 Monument Square #405
Charlestown, MA 02129-3448

For further information, contact Barbara at the above address or btbush@earthlink.net or call 617-241-8643.

MEETING DETAILS WILL BE UPDATED ON THE FON WEBSITE:
www.friendsofnigeria.org or join a discussion at the FONmembers GoogleGroup site
<http://groups.google.com/group/FONmembers>

*A portion of any unspent funds may be used to fund FON's charitable activities in Nigeria.

(FON Board Nominees *Continued from page 7*)

Fr. Edward Inyanwachi (Friend)

I was born in Afikpo, Ebonyi state of Nigeria.

I became an ordained Catholic priest in 1994 for the diocese of Abakaliki and have since served as parochial vicar, university chaplain, high school teacher and pastor.

In 2000 I came to the United States to pursue further education and received an MA in Theology from the Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio in 2002. In 2007 I received an Ed.D in Catholic Educational Leadership from the University of San Francisco. I am



currently serving as associate pastor at St. Catherine of Siena Church, Burlingame, CA.

I joined the FON board in 2007.

Bob Wynne (04) 62-64

(No bio or photo submitted)

Lonnie Lane (Staff) 66-67

Friends of Nigeria has recently been informed of the death of Lonnie Lane who passed away in April, 1982 at the age of 49. Lonnie served as deputy director of programs in Nigeria from 1966-67. Upon leaving Nigeria, he was stationed in India where he served as a staff member for Peace Corps-India. At the time of his death, Lonnie was survived by his wife, Anne, and his last address of record was Big Pine Key, Fl.

[Source: Dave Elliott]

Edward Beurman Larsh (Staff) 67-68

Edward B. Larsh, died Oct. 1, 2004, in San Luis Obispo, Calif. Ed served in Kaduna as a program technical representative from 1967-68, and later went on to serve as Peace Corps Director in Malawi from June, 1969 until January, 1979. Fondly known as “Eddie-Boy” and “coach”, Ed graduated from Leadville High School in Colorado and went on to further his education at Western State College, Stanford University, and the University of Northern Colorado where he earned a Ph.D. in the field of education. From 1942-1946, he served as an aerial engineer in World War II. He coached varsity basketball and taught senior social studies at Monterey High School from 1949 to 1965. A prolific author, he published *Take the Aspen Train: A History of Changing Values and Railroads in Colorado*. He also produced *Leadville U.S.A.*, an oral history of his hometown, 1880-1994. Most recently, he published *Doc's Lab, Myth & Legends of Cannery Row*. After his Peace Corps days, Ed divided his time between living and writing in Monterey, California and at his home in Carbondale, Colorado. He was survived by his daughter Skye and son-in-law Douglas Hessing of Arroyo Grande, Calif.; loving mother of Skye, Barbara Larsh; brothers Jack of San

Jose, Calif., and Donald of Ft. Collins, Colo.; sister Thelma McMillin of Angels Camp, Calif.; and his aunt, Julia Beurman of Leadville. His second wife, Jane O'Herron Larsh, preceded him in death.

[Sources: *Friends of Malawi* Newsletter]

Mary Roberta Jones (02) 1961-63

Mary Roberta Jones died at the home of her daughter in Stone Mountain, GA, on November 1, 2010. She was born in Billings, MT on August 22, 1938, educated at Mt. Holyoke College and came to Washington, DC in 1959 to serve as a summer intern for U.S. Senator Mike Mansfield. She was an early Peace Corps volunteer, serving in Nigeria as a lecturer at the University of Nigeria, and later joined USIA, where she spent a career in public diplomacy in several African countries including Ghana, Ethiopia, Guinea, and Cameroon. She was an avid fan of the opera, theater, the music of Stephen Sondheim, and the Washington Nationals baseball team. Never married, Ms Jones adopted two children in Guinea. She is survived by her daughter, Fatoumata Toure of Stone Mountain GA, her son, Daouda Toure, of Springville UT, their spouses, and seven grandchildren.

[Source: *The Washington Post*]

Andrew E. Motter (24) 66-68

Andy Motter passed away on February 28, 2008, at his home in Keene, New Hampshire at the age of 64. While in Nigeria, Andy was stationed at the “Ilora Farm Settlement” at Ilora near Oyo in the former Western Region. He attended Hanover Park High school in Hanover, NY then went on to gain a Masters Degree at Boston University in the field of Urban Planning. He was employed by the Federal Transit Authority in Cambridge Massachusetts as a Regional Transportation Planner. He was an avid

woodturner and later owned his own woodturning supply company “Butternut Tools.” He leaves his surviving wife Signe and daughters Kaia (& Brett) Wilson of Somerville, MA and Kelda (& Devin) Mazzone with grandson Finn of Lannire, NY

[Source: Monthly Newsletter of the Central New England Woodturners]

Paul Randolph Violi (25) 66-67

Noted poet Paul Violi, died on April 2 in Cortlandt Manor, N.Y. at the age of 66. Paul Randolph Violi was born on July 20, 1944, in Brooklyn and grew up in Greenlawn, on Long Island. After earning an English degree from Boston University in 1966, he joined the Peace Corps and made maps in uncharted regions of northern Nigeria. On returning to New York, he worked for WCBS-TV and various newspapers and magazines and began spending time at the Poetry Project at St. Mark's Church in-the-Bowery, home to the second wave of New York School poets. In the early 1970s, while employed as the managing editor of *The Architectural Forum* magazine, he published his first poems, collected in “Waterworks” and “In Baltic Circles.” His Nigerian experience provided the material for a long poem, “Harmatan,” published in 1977. He published more than a dozen poetry collections, including “Splurge” (1982), “Likewise” (1988), “The Curious Builder” (1992) and “Overnight” (2007), as well as the prose work “Selected Accidents, Pointless Anecdotes” (2002). In addition to his wife, he is survived by his mother, Irma, of Ridge, N.Y.; a sister, Anita, of Medford, Mass.; a brother, Peter, of Bohemia, N.Y.; a daughter, Helen, of Girdletree, Md.; a son, Alex, of Brooklyn; and two grandchildren.

[Source: *The New York Times*]

Nigeria Held Elections in April

Nigeria held three rounds of elections this spring—legislative on April 9, presidential on April 16, and gubernatorial on April 26. Legislative elections were slated to be held on April 2; however, they were stopped abruptly on that day when voting materials failed to reach many polling sites. President Jonathan welcomed the postponement to April 9, and rejected allegations that the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP) had sabotaged the polls to force a delay. The Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) party of Jonathan's main challenger, Muhammadu Buhari, said that the postponement was the best option to allow for fair elections. Nevertheless, the postponement sparked anger and disappointment across Nigeria, and provoked deep criticism of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

International monitors maintained, however, that the INEC, under a new chairman, significantly improved the conduct of the elections, creating a new voters' register, improving transparency in reporting results, and publicly pledging to hold accountable those who broke the rules. Despite such improvements, there were still incidents of violence, hijacking of ballot boxes by party thugs, and reports of police misconduct. There were also allegations of vote buying, ballot-box stuffing, and inflation of results. Following the April 16 presidential election, violence broke out, causing many deaths and widespread displacement of people. (Source: Human Rights Watch [Dakar], 5/16/11; VOANews, 4/1/11, 4/14/11, 4/6/11, 4/7/11, 4/8/11).

US Diplomat Observed Poll

The top U.S. diplomat for African affairs, Johnnie Carson observed the parliamentary elections in Nigeria. In remarks, Carson said that the U.S. was disappointed that Nigeria postponed the polls. He said that Nigerians would lose confidence in their leaders and the country's ability to move toward democracy if the elections were not significantly better than the last ones in 2007 which were marked by widespread violence, fraud

and organizational chaos, prompting the European Union to declare them "not credible." (Source: VOANews, 4/7/11).

Nearly Two Dozen Candidates Vied for the Presidency

Nearly two dozen presidential candidates vied for Nigeria's presidency, although opinion polls indicated that only four of them had the greatest chance of winning. They were the incumbent President Goodluck Jonathan from the southern Delta region and three from the north: former general Muhammadu Buhari, Kano State governor Ibrahim Shekarau, and anti-corruption activist Nuhu Ribadu.

Incumbent President Jonathan, who subsequently won the election, had promised that he would end discrimination against minorities in government. He had also introduced ambitious programs to develop the country's gas reserves and privatize the long-stagnant, state-run energy company. In addition, he said that an effort would be made to strengthen Nigeria's petrochemical and fertilizer industries and create up to half a million jobs.

Retired General Muhammadu Buhari of the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) party ran closely behind Jonathan. Buhari briefly led Nigeria as a military ruler in the early 1980s. He is remembered for his strong stand against corruption and for his national experience. He was governor of North-Eastern State, a Minister of Petroleum, and also the Chair of the Petroleum Trust Fund, a development agency. His perception of being pro-Islam and anti-Christian hurt him, although many say that he worked to attract voters by choosing running mates from different geographic areas or with different religious backgrounds. For example, he selected a Christian televangelist, Pastor Tunde Bakare to be his running mate.

Anti-corruption activist Nuhu Ribadu had never run for elected office. Nevertheless, he was influential as a candidate of the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN). As the head of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission and

former policeman, he took action against powerful governors suspected of graft and other forms of corruption. He had the advantage of being a candidate for a party that had done well in the legislative elections. It was assumed that he would be able to gain the ACN votes in the Southwest zone where the ACN routed the PDP incumbents.

Ibrahim Shekarau, a two-term governor of Kano State, was the candidate of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP). His tenure has been viewed by many as one of the longest periods of (inter-ethnic) peace in the state. He was also credited with improving the state infrastructure, including new roads and water treatment plants. In televised debates, he was able to argue convincingly and provide a critique of the inadequacies of the ruling PDP administration. However, in his own geopolitical zone, he was overshadowed by Buhari, who is more popular and charismatic.

The winner of the election had to have a majority of the popular vote, including in 24 of the country's 36 states, plus the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. Incumbent President Goodluck Jonathan subsequently achieved those requirements and won the presidential election, with the assistance of some 45 small opposition parties that threw their support to him in the final days. He received about 57 percent of the vote, while Muhammadu Buhari finished second with about 31 percent, according to the president of the Electoral Commission. (Source: VOANews, 4/12/11).

Buhari Challenges Election Results

Goodluck Jonathan won Nigeria's presidential election, receiving about 57 percent of the vote, according to the president of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), while Muhammadu Buhari finished second, with about 31 percent. Independent observers say that the voting was largely free and fair. However, Buhari said that he would challenge the results in court, maintaining that there was computerized, electronic vote rigging.

The Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) has filed a petition before the Court of Appeal Tribunal in Abuja seeking the nullification of the presidential election results in over 20 states and to organize a fresh election between the CPC and the People's Democratic Party (PDP). It is hiring a foreign firm that has participated in 300 electoral processes in 19 countries to scrutinize ballot papers used for the presidential polls. It has also asked the INEC to ensure that the ballot papers are safe and in good condition, preferably kept with the Central Bank of Nigeria. The CPS's National Legal Adviser said that the party had ample evidence to show that the PDP had rigged the presidential polls. (Sources: BBC News, Africa, 5/9/11; *Daily Trust*, 5/9/11; Reuters, 5/8/11; *Vanguard* [Lagos], 5/9/11, 5/10/11; VOANews, 4/19/11, 4/20/11, 5/9/11).

PDP Wins National Assembly Elections

The results of the National Assembly elections showed that the People's Democratic Party (PDP) won the majority of seats in both the Senate (53 of 85 seats) and the House of Representatives (152 of 279 seats). The Action Congress of Nigeria (CAN) party came in a distant second in both the Senate (18 seats) and the House (53 seats), followed by the CPC (6), ANPP (4), LP (2), DPP (1), and APCA (1) in the Senate and the CPC (31), ANPP (23), LP (9), APCA (6), ACCORD (3), DPP (1), and PPN (1) in the House.

Although the ruling PDP won the majority of seats, opposition parties made gains at the expense of the PDP in the senate elections, with some prominent senators failing in their bid to win re-election. The speaker of the House of Representatives also failed to be re-elected. (Sources: Nigeria Elections Coalition, <http://nigeriaelections.org/nass.php>; VOANews, 4/11/11).

State Governors Elected After Deadly Riots and Bombings

Elections for Nigeria's 36 powerful governors were eventually completed,

although with many challenges. They were delayed in Kaduna and Bauchi, two of the states hit by the worst violence following the presidential election. Turnout throughout the north was also low, in general, because of the previous violence and because its presidential candidate Muhammadu Buhari had been defeated. It was especially low in Maiduguri following several bombings which were blamed on actions of Boko Haram militants. In addition, hundreds of election workers, most of them members of the National Youth Service Corps, refused to show up for work in the north because of the unrest. There were challenges in the south, as well, where police said they found two unexploded bombs in the Niger Delta region—one near an office of the electoral commission and another near a government office. Also in the Delta area, there were reports that armed thieves stole ballots from polling sites.

The results of the gubernatorial election indicated that opposition parties increased their share of the state governors. The ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP) now holds none of the six state houses in the southwest region where the opposition Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) picked up the states of Ogun and Oyo, maintained control of Lagos, and is contesting the outcome in Akwa Ibom. The PDP lost two other states, but gained Kano, the most populous state in the north. Buhari's party, the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) is contesting the results from Niger and Katsina states. (Sources: BBC News, Africa, 4/26/11; VOANews, 4/26/11, 4/28/11, 4/29/11).

Human Rights Watch Reports 800 Killed in Post-Election Riots

International observers commended Nigeria's legislative and presidential elections held in April as some of the fairest in Nigeria's history, but they were also the bloodiest, according to Human Rights Watch (HRW). At least 800 people were killed in postelection violence that began on April 17 in northern Nigeria when it became clear that a northern candidate would not succeed

in unseating the southern president, Goodluck Jonathan. Most of the victims were killed in three days of rioting in 12 northern states. Although the government did not give an official death toll for fear of provoking retaliatory violence, a government agency reported that more than 40,000 people were displaced by the riots; Human Rights Watch placed the number at 65,000.

Muslim rioters burned homes, churches and police stations after results showed that President Jonathan, a Christian from the south, had beaten his closest opponent Muhammadu Buhari, a Muslim from the north. Reprisals by Christians began almost immediately. The worst of the violence was in the state of Kaduna, where a large Christian population borders a Muslim one. More than 300 people died in rioting in the rural town of Zonkwa, and a market in the town of Kafanchan was burned to the ground. According to Human Rights Watch, most of the victims in those parts of the state were Muslims caught in retaliatory attacks. The HRW said that Nigerian authorities failed to stop the recurring violence, and it documented cases of police and the military using excessive force, causing many of the killings.

President Jonathan created a 22-member panel to investigate the postelection violence and ways to prevent such violence in the future. The head of the panel is Islamic scholar Lemu, and the vice chairman is former Supreme Court Justice Samson Uwaifo, a Christian. The panel has been charged to determine how many people were killed, the main cause of the riots, and how to prevent future violence. However, Human Rights Watch reports that some lack confidence in the panel and believe that it will just buy time for the government until the problem drops from the headlines, allowing the government to go back to business as usual. HRW, as well as civil society and other human rights groups maintain that these were state-level crimes. They urge state prosecutors to follow through on arrests to try perpetrators and seek justice, rather than

initiating new commissions of inquiry that will go nowhere. (Sources: Human Rights Watch [Dakar], 5/16/11; IRIN [Jos], 4/13/10, [Kano], 5/17/11; *VOA News*, 5/12/11, 5/16/11; *Washington Post* [Associated Press, Lagos], 5/16/11).

President to Appoint 13 Female Ministers

In order to fulfill a campaign promise of having 35 percent representation of women in his administration, President Jonathan may appoint 13 female ministers to his cabinet. Similar to his predecessor, Jonathan will most likely appoint a 43-person Federal Executive Council to help him implement his development plans for the nation, with a minister representing each of the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory and each of the six geopolitical zones.

The First Lady has been receiving ministerial lobbyists, as she promised those who campaigned for her husband that their labor would not be in vain. However, the women are reported to be divided in their strategy. The politicians are seeking appointment through the First Lady, while some of the professionals are lobbying through other contacts, and are maintaining that they, not the politicians, should be given the positions.

As an indication of his support for women, it should be noted that President Jonathan is the first Nigerian leader to appoint a woman as Minister of Petroleum, and he has directed the military to begin recruiting women as combatant soldiers. (Source: *Leadership* [Abuja], 5/9/11).

Non-Oil Exports Grow More than 1,000 Percent from 2000 to 2010

The Minister of Commerce and Industry has said that the value of Nigeria's non-oil exports increased from \$0.2 billion in the year 2000 to \$2.3 billion in 2010, more than a 1,000 percent growth. The most important non-oil exports are agro-related products such as cocoa leather, rubber, cotton textiles, shrimp, sesame seeds and gum Arabic which have been growing at double digit rates. The information was part of a report

of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on the comprehensive review of the Export Expansion Grant (EEG). The EEG is an export-oriented, forex-earning industrialization policy with the main objective of compensating export manufacturers for certain manufacturing cost increases, thereby enhancing the competitiveness of the products in export markets. (Source: *Daily Trust*, 5/9/11; *This Day*, 5/10/11).

Nigeria Signs on to \$6 Million Project with UNESCO

Nigeria has signed on to a \$6 million project with UNESCO to promote universal access to education to boost adult and youth literacy. Under the agreement, the Federal Government would finance a project managed by UNESCO to strengthen capacities for designing, delivering and monitoring quality literacy programs. There are an estimated 50 million adults who cannot read and write and nearly 9 million out-of-school children in Nigeria. The agreement will be implemented over a 42-month period by UNESCO's office in Abuja. (Source: *Daily Trust* [Boco Edet], 5/9/11).

World Bank Approves Credit for Polio Eradication Project

The World Bank has approved an additional credit of \$60 million for Nigeria's Partnership for Polio Eradication project. The funds will help finance polio vaccines during the coming year as well as continue to support other aspects of primary health care in the country. A comprehensive effort against polio supported by the World Bank and other partners has contributed to a dramatic 95% reduction in polio cases from the year 2009 to 2010. However, immunization must continue to consolidate these gains.

In 2011, with the support of World Bank financing, over 400 million doses of oral polio vaccines will be procured for the supplemental immunization activities at national and sub-national levels and "mop up" rounds. Partners and government financing will cover the operational costs for these campaigns and support activities like social mobilization and

capacity building.

The new World Bank credit is the third since 2003. It continues a buy-down provision by which the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation along with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Rotary International will pay off the present value of the credit on behalf of Nigeria if an independent assessment determines that performance indicators have been achieved. If targets are met, funds for the buy-down are released and the debt is paid off.

The significant progress is largely due to the fact that a strong attempt was made to engage traditional leaders in northern Nigeria. There were misconceptions about the vaccine, including that it would affect fertility, but there is now far more trust than there was. (Source: World Bank, 3/17/11, Press Release 2011/377/AFR; 6/28/10).

Four Bank Bosses are Re-Arrested

Nigeria's Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has re-arrested four former bank executives who were dismissed in 2009 for financial mismanagement. The EFCC says that the accused executives, who were out on bail, will face fresh charges. Separate trials of the former bosses of Intercontinental Bank, Union Bank, Finbank, and Afribank have begun. Eight other directors from the same banks are expected to face charges. The cases come two years after Nigeria's Central Bank issued a \$4 billion bailout for nine banks and removed the chief executives, accusing them of fraudulent practices. Analysts believe that this prevented the collapse of the nine banks and possibly the country's entire banking sector. (Source: BBC News, Business, 5/4/11).

\$1 Billion of Abacha Loot Still Outstanding

About \$1 billion of the funds embezzled by former President Sani Abacha remain out of reach of Abuja, nearly 13 years after his death and attempts to recover the public funds that were laundered to European countries during his four years in office. \$1.3 billion has been

returned to the Central Bank of Nigeria with the help of a lawyer hired by Abuja to help track the money. Part of the outstanding \$1 billion has been frozen in Liechtenstein, Luxembourg and the Bahamas. Part is also in France and the United Kingdom. The lawyer working to retrieve the funds indicated that huge funds laundered systematically are often split into irregular amounts and then routed through other banks across the globe, making it difficult to trace, before eventually showing up in other destinations. The lawyer working to retrieve the funds indicated that it is one thing to find and freeze the money, but to confiscate and repatriate the funds is the hardest part. (Source: *Daily Independent* [Lagos], 5/9/11).

Nigerian is Pop Star in Beijing

Hao Ge (pronounced How Guh) is China's most unlikely pop star. He is Nigerian, and he sings in Mandarin. His real name is Emmanuel Uwechue, but he is better known by his stage name which sounds like the words for "good song" in Chinese. Uwechue, 33, has developed a fan base, particularly among the children and middle-aged women who watch "Zin Guang Da Dao," the "American Idol" knockoff show where he first gained notice a few years after his arrival almost a decade ago. He has performed along with a host of Chinese superstars and has been enthusiastically embraced by the Chinese media.

Uwechue got his start singing in the choir at House on the Rock Pentecostal Church in Lagos. After receiving a degree in engineering, he decided to pursue music against the wishes of his father. When a Chinese friend who was working in Lagos returned home to open a hotel, he asked Uwechue to visit. Uwechue began to sing in bars and hotels in China while becoming a devoted student of Mandarin. His performance in 2007 at the Lunar New Year Gala, seen by hundreds of millions of people on television, made him a star. (Source: *New York Times* [Beijing], 3/15/11).

Nigerian Adaptation of "Sesame Street" Debuts May 21

The U.S. mission in Nigeria announced that a Nigerian adaptation of "Sesame Street" would debut on May 21 on the state-run Nigerian Television Authority. It will be called "Sesame Square" and will air every Saturday and Sunday. The program will feature Kami, an inquisitive female Muppet living with HIV, and Zobi, a blue Muppet obsessed with yams, a staple food in Nigeria. The program is co-produced by the Nigerian production house Ileke Media and the nonprofit educational organization behind "Sesame Street," Sesame Workshop. (Source: *Washington Post*, 5/10/11).

Nigeria's Flying Eagles Win African Youth Championship

The Flying Eagles defeated Cameroon 3-2 to win the African Youth Championship (AYC) football tournament in South Africa for the sixth time. The game went into over-time before Nigeria scored the winning goal. Nigeria won the AYC in 1983, 1985, 1987, 1989 and 2005. Egypt finished third after defeating Mali 1-0. Champions Nigeria, Cameroon, Egypt and Mali will fly the continent's flag in South America in the Under 20 World Cup scheduled from July 29 in Columbia. Ghana, the defending champion of the World Cup failed to qualify this time. (Sources: *Daily Independent* [Lagos], 5/1/11; *Leadership* [Abuja], 5/2/11).

Nigeria Begins Training for All-Africa Games

Nigerian athletes will train in South Korea and Dubai, as well as some European countries, for the 10th All Africa Games. The training tour to put the athletes in proper shape both physically and mentally for the contest will last for at least 50 days before they arrive in Maputo, Mozambique for the games which will take place in September. All athletes that will represent Nigeria at the games are currently in various training camps.

Nigeria won the games in Abuja in 2003, but came in 4th in Algeria in 2007. The Director General of the National

Sports Commission hopes to improve on the latter achievement. The Sports Commission has registered 422 athletes and 50 officials for 18 sports in which it hopes that Nigeria will excel. (Source: *Daily Champion* [Abuja], 5/10/11).

International Football Player is Killed in Car Crash

Olubayo Adefemi was killed in a road accident in the Greek city of Kavala. Police say that the 25 year-old, who played right back for Skoda Zanth in Greece's Super League, lost control of his car and collided with the central divider, before ending in the opposing lane. He was on his way to Thessaloniki Airport for a flight to Nigeria to finalize plans for his upcoming marriage.

Adefemi represented Nigeria on five occasions, including the 2008 Beijing Olympics when Nigeria was runner up to the winner, Argentina. He joined Skoda Zanth in summer 2010. (Source: CNN.com, 4/18/11).

Amos Adamu Appeals FIFA Ban

Former FIFA Executive Committee member Amos Adamu has appealed the Court of Arbitration for Sport to overturn his three-year ban from football on corruption charges linked to the 2018 and 2022 World Cup bidding contests. FIFA's ethics court sanctioned Adamu and five other senior officials last November in a scandal that threw the World Cup bidding process into turmoil. Adamu, a former Nigerian sports minister was found guilty of seeking bribes from British undercover reporters posing as bid lobbyists. The *Sunday Times* published a video showing Adamu asking for \$800,000 paid directly to him to build four artificial football fields in Nigeria. He said this could influence how he voted in the December 2 elections. He was suspended before the December vote and lost his place representing Africa on FIFA's 24-member ruling panel. Without Adamu and others sanctioned by FIFA, the executive committee chose Russia to host the 2018 World Cup and Qatar to host the 2022 event. The court has not fixed a hearing date for Adamu. (Source: *Daily Trust*, 5/6/11).

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