

GBAKOR IKWERRE USA, INC.

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A National Organization of Ikwerre People in the United States of America, and Canada

Press Release: March 15, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OGBAKOR IKWERRE USA, INC. STRONGLY CONDEMS ALL ACTS OF ELECTION VIOLENCES IN RIVERS STATE

(USA) – Ogbakor Ikwerre USA (OIUSA), Inc., stands in solidarity with the peace loving people of Rivers State, concerned citizens of Nigeria, and the international community, to condemn in the strongest terms:

- The militarization of the electoral process in our beloved Rivers State;
- All forms of electoral fraud, voter intimidation, and vote manipulations;
- The spate of kidnappings, murders, and other criminal practices going on in the state in the name of elections;
- Rilvary cult killings and kidnappings taking place in Ikwerre land, especially in Emuoha and Ikwerre Local Government Areas.

We are deeply concerned about the reported killings and violent activities in several parts of the State and are calling for a halt of these criminal activities. We enjoin the law enforcement agencies to be alive to their responsibility of ensuring the safety and security of all law-abiding citizens and residents in the State. The security agents of the state and the Federal Government must not be used to carry out individual's political agenda, rather they should serve to preserve the lives of the people. We also call on the political leaders of the various parties in Rivers State to forge ahead and develop the ability to manage their rivalries without sacrificing the lives of their followers.

Elections are designed for the citizens to exercise their inalienable rights to choose their leaders, but not to die because someone, group, or an organization doesn't like their choice. Rivers State is our only State, she belongs to all of us and we must resist all forms of anti- democratic forces in our state politics.

<u>Patrick Ugo Anyawoke</u>

Mr. Patrick Ugochukwu Anyawoke Secretary-General, OIUSA, INC *Eric Welle* Mr. Eric Welle

<u>Chile Chuku</u>

Mr. Eric Welle Mr. C Public Relation Officer, OIUSA, INC Preside

Mr. Chile Chuku President, OIUSA, INC