PRESS STATEMENT

CSOs DEMAND URGENT ACTION AGAINST VIOLENCE THREATS AHEAD OF ELECTIONS

In recent times, Nigeria political landscape has been heated with series of provocative statements, destructive arguments and negative utterances that can impair our national democracy. It is again this background that we, the under-listed Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) join all well-meaning Nigerians to call for the immediate arrest and prosecution of any person or group of persons threatening violence or instigating crisis of any form ahead of the upcoming general elections.

We recall that recently, former Minister of Defence, General Theophilus Danjuma (ret) had called for the immediate arrest of some identified individuals including Mujahid Dokubo-Asari; Victor Ben Ebikabowei, Boy Loaf; Government Ekpudomenowei, Tompolo; and other militants following their threat to unleash violence on the country and take back Niger Delta oil should the president Goodluck Jonathan lose in the upcoming election.

We are aware that some unscrupulous individuals have been initiating trouble through negative actions such as rumours and incitement for their dubious gains at the detriment of Nigeria unity. This is not limited to horrible statements made with the intent to create a climate conducive for catalyzing people to violence.

We find it unacceptable and unwelcome development, persistent threats by violence mongers or political hoodlums that can hurt the unity, peace and stability of Nigeria. We condemn all manner of unguarded statements that have inimical impact on the corporate existence of the country or ridicule the country's image.

It is worrisome that some individuals are found making inflammatory statements not minding the dreadful consequences such can pose against peace and unity of the country. It is time to rethink and discourage unproductive words in our society by stop giving baseless prominent attention to political gamblers.

We encourage the youths to resist being used as tools by desperate politicians to cause confusion during or after the elections. We call on well-meaning Nigerians irrespective of status, tribe, sex, religion and political affiliations, to abide by peaceful conduct of the elections.

We further call on politicians to stop supporting or sending provocative language that can intensify existing tension in the country; and Nigerians to resist dirty politics, show
tolerate and promote understanding in dealing with issues that could negatively affect the generality of Nigerians.

**Signed:**

1. Centre for Information Technology And Development (CITAD)
2. Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC)
3. West Africa Civil Society Forum (WACSOF-Nigeria)
4. State of African Union (SOTU)
5. Partners on Electoral Reform
6. Protest to power movement
7. Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD)
8. Zero Corruption Coalition (ZCC)
10. Advocacy Nigeria
11. Say No Campaign