CISLAC Condemns Needless Extension of State of Emergency

Following the recent request by President Goodluck Jonathan for a six-month extension on the state of emergency currently in place in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States, Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), observed as follows:

1. In recent times, the insurgency problem in the three states has virtually exposed them to series of gruesome financial and socio-economic challenges.
2. The accrued monthly allocations belonging to the states from the federation account have not been judiciously utilized in accordance with the constitutional provision, which mandates the president to provide for the protection, documentation, return, re-integration, resettlement, rehabilitation, compensation and remuneration of persons affected by the declaration.
3. Presently, there is no noticeable new security arrangement put in place justifying the extension of the emergency rule outside the road blocks and security posts which predated the declaration in the wake of the attacks in the states.
4. The governors of Yobe, Adamawa and Borno states and their council chairmen have been subjected to unpleasant times as they have, under the emergency rule arrangement, been stripped of their constitutional powers.
5. The declaration of zero compensation for the victims—both civilians and members of Joint Task Force (JTF) — of dreadful attacks by the insurgents will aggravate more hardship and unbearable burdens on affected persons and their families.
6. Instead of genuine dialogue, the continuous needless massive deployment of troops who launched offensive against innocent citizens in the states to dislodge the insurgents would aggravate another era of instability.
7. In the last four months, seizure of the monthly allocation to the states has resulted in non-payment of workers’ salaries and consequently their inability to respond appropriately to family needs.

Therefore, CISLAC recommends as follows:

1. Immediate disregard by the Senate for the ongoing request by the President Jonathan to extend emergency rules in the three states to allow for the full-fledged democratic rules by the state elected executives.
2. Prompt response and consideration by Federal Government on the provision for the protection, return, re-integration, resettlement, rehabilitation, compensation and remuneration of persons affected by the declaration.
3. Immediate compensation for the victims of insurgents attack to can provide succour for the children, parents, brothers, sisters and other family members they left behind.
4. Government should engage in meaningful dialogue with the insurgents to protect lives and property of the people from further violence.
5. Gradual and effective reintegration programme for the concerned citizens into their various communities.
6. Immediate payment of all unpaid entitlements due to workers in the states.
7. All well-meaning Nigerians should canvass against unresolved allegations of abuses and human rights violations which attributed to security forces during their operations in the three states.

Signed:
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