

## **AFRICAN YOUNG LAWYERS, AfBA, HISTORICAL WRONGS AND THE URGENT QUEST FOR A JUST WORLD INTERNATIONAL LEGAL ORDER.**

### **Introduction.**

Africa is portrayed by established Western media and western controlled institutions as a continent at war with its soul. The consistency and vehemence of this portrayal of Africa may elude only the jaundiced eye. We reject this portrayal of Africa with the vehemence and contempt it deserves for many reasons, some only, which I shall venture to examine in this paper.

### **The challenge**

This does not mean that Africa does not face serious challenges begging critical solutions. It is in examining some of the problems faced by Africa that the theme of this Conference “Dissecting the Legal and Regulatory Framework for Doing Business in Africa” finds its relevance. That AfBA has quickly turned its attention to this problem shortly after its rebirth, underscores, the importance and urgency of this critical matter.

### **Historical wrongs.**

The history of humanity is replete with a catalogue of complaints detailing unaddressed historical wrongs requiring redress. It is paradoxical that some of countries falling within this category are responsible for some of the most egregious crimes against Africa.

It is not reasonably disputed that the vampiric evisceration and destruction of African salvific cultural, economic, historical and moral institutions was orchestrated by Western predatory powers. The cultural genocide that followed the slave trade, culminating in the Berlin Bazaar in 1884 are but a few significant ones I may venture for this brief discussion.

These crimes against humanity, were provided legal cover by Western international law, international treaty law, diplomatic practice, and customary international law.

As we sit here today, deliberating on the theme of this Conference, we should not minimise the fact that the greatest obstacle in our search for solutions to the myriad of problems afflicting our continent are historical wrongs arising from the so-call international legal order which hangs over our continent as the sword of Damocles. We must therefore place the quest for a just international law world order as a prerequisite for resolving the problems arising from the systemic pauperisation of Africa.

We must reject unjust multilateral treaties, colonial laws, customary international concepts and a perverse concept of international relations and globalisation that are relied on to recolonise this continent. Lest we forget, what is presented to Africa as the tenets of civilised moral, cultural, legal, economic, fundamental human rights values were relied on to sustain crimes against humanity against Africa. This done on the justification that Africa was not a subject of international law.

I have said it before and I will repeat it here, that most of the multilateral treaties regulating international trade, property rights, international finance, international relations, and this includes the United Nations Charter, did not contemplate Africa nor were intended to benefit Africa. Africa and Africans were but chattel disposable by these predators at their pleasure.

### **A Just World International Law Order.**

The historical wrongs against Africa are of such a magnitude that African Lawyers must place the redress of historical wrongs at the centre of our preoccupation. It is obvious from the

theme of this Conference that AfBA is resolutely determined to confront this beast of international criminality with the resilience and stoic zeal of the historical Spartans.

AfBA is a child of necessity. It is not an NGO because many NGO's active in many African countries are the latest conduits which special interests and corrupt cartels are using to rape the economy of African states. They are relied on to subvert established constitutional order in some countries and to desecrate aged old traditions and cultures. AfBA, distinguished colleagues, is the rediscovered conscience of African humanity. It must slay the Angels of Death that have set this continent in turmoil while raping our economies, looting our natural resources, pauperizing our continent and dehumanizing us.

AfBA has arrived on time to mobilize and lead Africa in its quest for a just world international law order, that addresses historical wrongs. Indeed, AfBA must lead the quest for a new world international law order in which Africa will freely negotiate multilateral and bilateral treaties that will benefit Africa and African peoples. AfBA must refocus governments in the continent on the need to promote and protect African values, cultures, customs, traditions, customary laws, land rights, matrimonial regimes, dispute resolution regimes, investment laws, research, education, industry, religion, sciences and spirituality etc.

### **Foot soldiers of the AfBA Africa Renewal Revolution.**

African young lawyers are the foot soldiers AfBA Africa Renewal Revolution. Just as your peers in the West, and lately in some Asian countries are the foot soldiers of Western technological revolution, you must be the unsurmountable foot soldiers of African renewal. This renewal must aim at reclaiming Africa's glorious place in the history of humanity. You are well armed to engage this struggle for the survival of Africa and the black race in a world

that is more and more questioning its own existence and future due to the greed and predatory quest of some world powers for domination.

Young lawyers in Africa must intensify the membership drive of AfBA in Africa and the world over. You must pressurize the African Union, Continental Organizations and respective Governments in Africa to support the objectives of AfBA and rely on the legal expertise offered by AfBA to resolve African problems.

To attain these goals and objectives, young lawyers must consider every day, every hour, every minute and second, the AfBA of your professional endeavours. You must take AfBA and the proceedings of this conference to all corners of the world, so that all and sundry must know that the sleeping giant has awoken at long last.

Chief Charles A. Taku