

LOMÉ DECLARATION ON THE PLIGHT OF CHRISTIANS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

We, the undersigned citizens of the nations of the Sub-Saharan region of Africa, have gathered for a conference in Lomé, Togo, from 1-3 September 2023. We have discussed our shared experiences of inequality, religious discrimination, faith-based violence and persecution. We recognise that religious extremism is affecting different groups and we condemn it. However, Christians are especially targeted and are bearing the brunt of the violence.

We have therefore agreed to this Declaration on the Plight of Christians in Sub-Saharan Africa and are joined by others not in attendance but who have added their support through affixing their signatures. Our aim in making this Declaration is to highlight the plight of Christians in Sub-Saharan Africa and seek effective ways of halting the spread of violence and religious extremism.

The situation of Christians

We are agreed that:

- 01) People of all faiths and none should live together in peace and harmony, a state of being that requires mutual respect and tolerance for others.
- 02) The degree of repression that Christians face varies between and within the countries of the Sub-Saharan region. However, the fundamental rights and freedoms of Christians are increasingly being violated, and the most extreme form, involving violence, is making itself felt across Sub-Saharan Africa.
- 03) Christians are suffering in different ways. They are being murdered, individually and en masse. They are abused. They are abducted. Women and girls are subjected to sexual violence including rape and enslavement. They are being terrorised from their homes and farmlands causing humanitarian crises. In some areas, the influence of Christians is substantially reduced, and their one-time inhabitants live in displacement by the millions.
- 04) We have seen consistency in the way that the right to have, hold, adopt or change belief and faith is not sufficiently respected in our countries. In some parts of Sub-Saharan Africa, Christians are being murdered. There is danger for many in publicly manifesting religious beliefs, whether individually or in groups.
- 05) The downplaying or outright denial of our experienced reality as Christians, which takes place at the national and international levels, adds to our distress and frustration.
- 06) The impact of faith-based abuse on social cohesion in our countries ranges from moderate to high, linked to the level of violence that is faced by communities.
- 07) The main sources of violence against Christians and their way of life are extremist Islamist groups, families and communities unwilling to accept the religious conversion of their members to Christianity, and undesignated armed groups.
- 08) The main factors that facilitate the growth of this violence are divisions along ethnic and religious identities, socio-economic vulnerabilities, inadequate governmental responses if any, political instability, poor law enforcement and impunity.
- 09) We find the national and international media's coverage of violence against Christians in our countries to be inadequate, while in many countries it is poor.

- 10) The Church in Sub-Saharan Africa feels alone and unheard. We are concerned that the universal Church is insufficiently aware of the plight of persecuted Christians.
- 11) The Church in Sub-Saharan Africa is insufficiently united against persecution.

Call for action

We call on:

- 12) **Our governments** to meet their legal obligations to respect, protect and ensure fundamental rights through:
 - a. Avoiding promoting one religion over another.
 - b. Taking measures to adopt and implement laws that ensure equality and non-discrimination in all walks of life.
 - c. Providing civic education, emphasizing tolerance, peaceful resolution of disputes and respect for human rights.
 - d. Providing remedies to victims: restitution, compensation, satisfaction.
 - e. Ending impunity by holding perpetrators of violence accountable.
- 13) **The Church in Sub-Saharan Africa** to be more effective in standing up for Christians under threat by:
 - a. Strengthening its capacity for advancing the interests of the persecuted Church through activities such as monitoring, documenting, reporting and advocacy.
 - b. Working towards strengthening and unifying the body of Christ in Sub-Saharan Africa through measures including holistic discipleship.
- 14) **Our fellow Christians in the wider body of Christ** to support the Christians of Sub-Saharan Africa by:
 - a. Sensitizing themselves and their communities about the situation in Sub-Saharan Africa and the plight of Christians.
 - b. Making persecution of Christians a long-term agenda item for specific prayer and advocacy, as well as practical assistance through partnering in relevant activities.
 - c. Advocating for the Christians of Sub-Saharan Africa with their own government.
- 15) **The international community** to recognize the growing emergency for Christians in Sub-Saharan Africa as a threat to international peace and security, and to take concrete measures by:
 - a. Supporting governments in building peaceful, inclusive and just societies, and in promoting human rights.
 - b. Initiating and implementing contextualised measures against religious extremism.
 - c. Prioritising the problem of persecution of Christians at national and international bodies responsible for maintaining peace and order, and criminal justice.

Signed by the following individuals this 3rd day of September 2023 in Lomé, Togo.

Signed by the following individuals this 3rd day of September 2023 in Lomé, Togo.

[signature and name]

 Ethiopia.

~~MASSIBAYE Pimalpa~~



Fridy Oloror



Colette ECOMBAYE

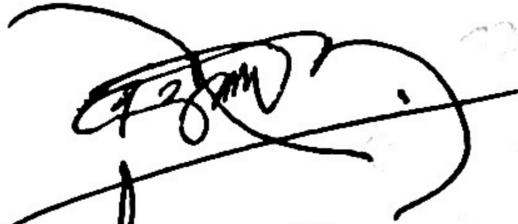
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TUMVHERAZA ELIZABETH



~~Hubert~~

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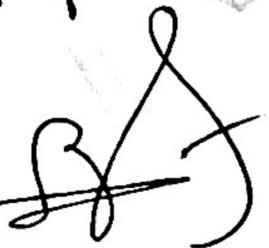
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Signed by the following individuals this 3rd day of September 2023 in Lomé, Togo.

[signature and name]

~~Signature~~ . George William Nouma Coulibaly
~~Signature~~ Kalep Filii

~~Signature~~ GUENO METINO Hensel Osée
~~Signature~~ Rev. Jean Libson Li Likiep.

~~Signature~~ H. H. Théodore KATEMBO

~~Signature~~ Barr. Bradim Iso Babangida.

~~Signature~~ Jonas R SAWABOGO AIS-Burkina Faso

~~Signature~~ Ouédraogo Thierry Gilbert BURKINA FASO

~~Signature~~ Jim Olang - Association of Evangelicals
in AFRICA (AEA).

~~Signature~~ ABADJAKA Pierre Magloire
Avocat Chrétien, Rep. Centrafricaine

~~Signature~~ Dagnachew Tsefe Tefera
~~Signature~~ Bethel Abera

~~Signature~~ BOUNDJOU. Kpante Christian
~~Signature~~ Beate onoudi

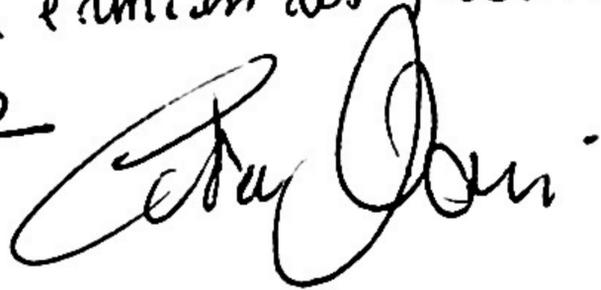
Signed by the following individuals this 3rd day of September 2023 in Lomé, Togo.

[signature and name]

Sawadogo Abdou Karim secrétaire
à l'organisation de l'amitié des journalistes et
communicateurs BF

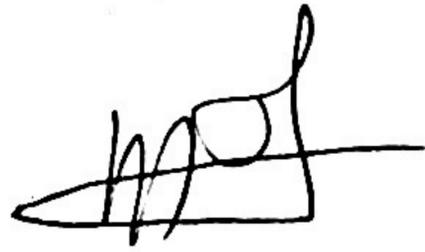


Marcel Guig



Mouten Adetoud

Abel Moïse Ekan



Raymond Ouattara

Raymond
Ouattara
Lomé



Rev. Jeanine Agang



Zelalem A.

Rev. F. Mandjamen



C. Kwakwase Effuf

Rev. MOÏSE GBEMA MBANZE
Abomey.

Rev. Dr TEYABÉ Alphonse

KOGO Fabrice

K. ILLI

Joseph DAO

Karamoko Coulibaly

ILLIA JSAN

Suzanne MAKEMBE

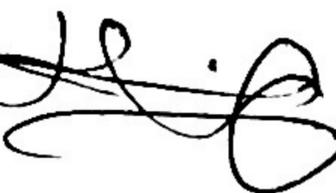


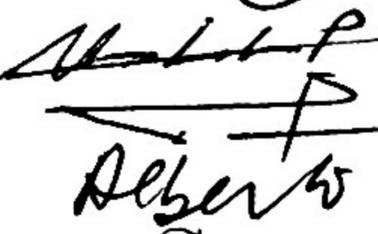
Signed by the following individuals this 3rd day of September 2023 in Lomé, Togo.

[signature and name]

. Hon. Jonathan Asake
of Assoupe Dombé

. ARUNG ZITIEP GLORIA

 Odette Moses

 PIRWOTH ULUK P'ULUL
Alberto Semu de Jesus

 Ikoyo Richard

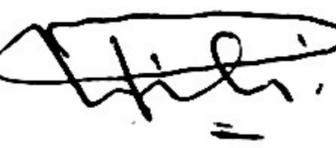
 DJAMÉ OUDAMNANIE Thérèse

 Kossingbo Ella Carine

 Beguedo KÉTOA SONIA

OUEDRAOGOUE Jeanne 

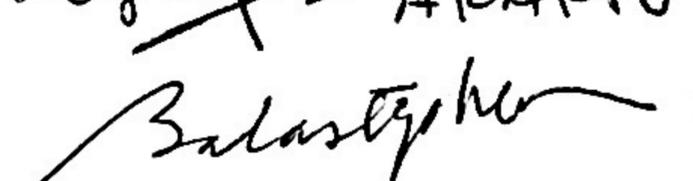
 Luka Dombé

 Peter Umam (SP)

Doreen Cleazar Doreen Tomasa 31/9/23.

 ABBA APIMENG THOMAS (GBEEC).

 AKAKPO Rodrigue

 Stephen Bala (Rev) Nigeria