



Nigeria Labour Congress
Trade Union Congress
Joint Action Forum

LABOUR AND CIVIL SOCIETY COALITION

We the people!

May 21, 2007

Your Excellency,

REQUEST FOR YOUR GOVERNMENT TO STAY AWAY FROM THE INAUGURATION OF NIGERIA'S "PRESIDENT" ON MAY 29 2007

The Labour-Civil Society Coalition (LASCO) is made up of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Trade Union Congress (TUC) and a wide range of civil society and popular organizations.

We write you regarding your invitation by the Government of Nigeria to the inauguration of Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua as Nigeria's "President" on May 29, 2007 following the fraudulent April general elections.

We wish to respectfully and passionately request you not to attend the inauguration ceremony, as this would be contributing to giving legitimacy to the fraudulent elections.

As you recall, we had earlier addressed the international community on the massively rigged April 14 and 21 2007 general elections, which was adjudged as the worst in Nigeria's history by both local and international observers, including those from your country.

The resolution of our two trade union federations and civil society/popular organizations is that any government formed at the national level based on the fraudulent elections would be illegitimate. Indeed, Nigerians believe that with the entrenched regime of election rigging, which reached its peak during the electoral criminality of April 2007, our country cannot attain good governance.

The very basis of democratic governance has been severely undermined by the fraud that took place in the name of elections in April 2007. The people have both lost faith in elections. Where people have lost faith in elections, the prospects of democracy are dim. The situation is indeed grave.

Therefore, we would continue to call for the cancellation of the fraudulent elections and canvass for fresh elections under new electoral and security arrangements. Of course, it goes without saying that we are similarly committed to ensuring the exit of the current government on May 29 2007.

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We do appreciate that your government and country has legitimate political and economic interests in Nigeria. However, considering the liberal democratic values on which your political and social system is founded, it is naturally expected that the Nigerian people should expect a demonstration of sensitivity to the aspiration of the Nigerian people for democratic development.

It is in fact in your country's interest not to trade off democratic values for short-term gains. It is our firm belief that that your stance on the side of the Nigerian people will in the long run be more conducive to your country's economic and political interests in Nigeria. The least you can do is not to oblige the custodians of a stolen mandate your presence or that of your government during the inauguration ceremonies in Abuja on May 29, 2007.

May we add that as part of our efforts to resist the imposition of an illegitimate government on our country, we and other segments of the Nigerian people have declared May 28 and 29, 2007 days of sit-at-home and protest.

We wish to thank you most sincerely in anticipation of your positive consideration of our prayer and convey the assurances of our highest esteem.

Yours sincerely,

For Labour and Civil Society Coalition:

**Abdulwahed Ibrahim Omar
President,
Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC)**

**Peter Esele
President
Trade Union Congress (TUCN)**

**Dr Oladipo Fashina
Chair
Joint Action Forum of Civil Society/Popular Organizations**

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