

NIGERIA AND AMERICA

A Patriot is Detained in Nigeria

JONATHAN GOVERNMENT ARRESTS UNITED STATES-BASED NEWSPAPER COLUMNIST, OKEY NDIBE, AT MURTALA MOHAMMED AIRPORT IN LAGOS

By Sahara Reporters, New York, Saturday, Jan 8, 2011

Saharareporters just learned minutes ago that the SSS at MMIA in Lagos arrested Okey Ndibe and detained, a columnist and US professor.

Mr Ndibe arrived on Turkish airlines at 9:31 PM (Nigerian Time). An immigration officer handed his passport to an State Security Service (SSS) who instructed him to get his luggage and come with them. One SSS officer named "Mr George" told Mr. Ndibe his supervisor needed to see him on the first floor at room 1062.

After being held for several hours he was released after he was made to give his Nigerian address, but just before he was released, his Nigerian passport was seized by the agency. They requested that he appears before the Kingsway Road office of the agency on Monday to interview with their director for further action.

Okey Ndibe is an American scholar and a columnist for the *Nigerian Sun* newspaper as well as several websites including *SaharaReporters.com*. He is also on the English Literature faculty at Trinity College in Connecticut and Brown University in Rhode Island.

THANKS TO ALL

By Okey Ndibe, Nigeria, Sunday Jan 9, 2011

I'd like to thank all who have called or sent e-mails since my brief detention last night by officials of the State Security Service at the Murtala Muhammed Airport. The agency seized my Nigerian and



Above, Okey Ndibe PhD at the New York Memorial for Gani Fawehinmi, Nigerian jurist and patriot, September 2009. Below, Sahara Reporters Publisher chaired the event. Below: panel at memorial included NDLF Chairman; NDLF Executive Director; Nigerian presidential candidate, former Nigerian police inspector general jurist Mallam Nuhu Ribadu; and Mr Okey Ndibe.



American passports. I've been directed to see the director of the SSS tomorrow at their Lagos office. I'm in excellent spirits.



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STOP THE HARASSMENT OF OKEY NDIBE

By Nigerian Democratic Liberty Forum office-holders, Dr Adegboyega Dada (Chairman), Mr Bukola Oreofe (Executive Director), Dr Willie Nwido, (Director Publicity & International Relations), New York, Sunday Jan 9, 2011

The Nigeria Democratic Liberty Forum (NDLF) condemns unequivocally the arrest, detention, harassment and the breach of the fundamental human rights of Dr Okey Ndibe; by the Nigerian government.

Dr Okey Ndibe is a patriotic Nigerian, social crusader, journalist and activist. He is also the Speaker of the Nigerian Peoples Parliament in the Diaspora (NPPID). He was arrested, detained, harassed and his United States and Nigerian passports were seized when he entered Nigeria through the international airport in Lagos.

After several hours interrogation, he was released and instructed to report to the security service agency during the week. His passports have not been returned.

The unwarranted harassment of this eminent Nigerian citizen who has deployed his literary and writing skills to speak truth to power by the State Security Service (SSS) is reminiscent of the dark days in the history of our country when the rights of citizens were flagrantly breached.

The NDLF calls on the Nigerian government to **stop and desist** from further harassing Dr Okey Ndibe. The instruction that he should continuously report to the SSS is an act of intimidation and possibly a prelude to falsely accuse him of spurious crimes as a basis for his detention in Nigeria.

If the Nigerian government does not immediately return his passport and stop his harassment, the NDLF shall instruct lawyers in Nigeria to approach the courts for the enforcement of his fundamental human rights as guaranteed by the Nigerian constitution and the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights. Also we shall commence an international campaign to call the attention of the rest of the world to this drift to State terrorism.

Nigerian Peoples Parliament in the Diaspora

Olebukola Oreofe



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PASSPORTS RETURNED TO OKEY NDIBE

By Okey Ndibe, Nigeria, Monday Jan 10, 2011

I am delighted to report that my meeting this afternoon with the director of Nigeria's State Security Service yielded the return of my passports. I'll give a full account of the meeting later.

Again, I treasure your concern and words of encouragement.

ABOUT OKEY NDIBE

From www.okeyndibe.com

Okey Ndibe teaches fiction and African literature at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. He is the author of the novel, *Arrows of Rain*. Ndibe co-edited with Chenjerai Hove *Writers, Writing on Conflicts and Wars in Africa*.

After studying business management at the Institute of Management and Technology, Enugu (Nigeria), Ndibe earned an MFA and PhD in English



from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

He has taught at Connecticut College in New London, Connecticut, and Simon's Rock College of Bard in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. From 2001 to 2002, he was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Lagos, Nigeria.

Ndibe was the founding editor of *African Commentary*, a magazine published by Mr Chinua Achebe, author of *Things Fall Apart*.

From 2000 to 2001, he was on the editorial board of *Hartford Courant* where his piece *Eyes to the Ground: The Perils of the Black Student* won the 2001 Association of Opinion Page Editors award for best opinion essay in an American newspaper. He won a best opinion piece award from the Society of Professional Journalists, Connecticut Chapter.

Ndibe writes a weekly column for *The Sun of Nigeria*, and *Sahara Reporters*. He contributes to *Hartford Courant*, *The Fabian Society Journal*, *Black Issues Book Review*, *BBC Online*, *guernicamag.com* and *drunkenboat.com*.