

**N**igeria is in dire need of fundamental changes in all her systems (political, economic, social, etc). Therefore vacant positions have arisen in all parts of Nigeria and in all sections/sectors of our lives for positions of revolutionaries. These positions exist in our families, villages, communities, ward levels, all local government areas, all ministries (state and federal), and all government agencies and in all private sector concerns etc. The entire Nigerian system needs a complete overhauling. Therefore, the Nigerian would be revolutionaries should start with him or herself. Firstly he or she needs to change, then change the families and change his/her immediate environment. Charity begins at home.

Revolutions need not be bloody, but bloody revolutions are preferable. However since the demise of communism, and the collapse of Soviet Union, the prevalence or the rate of occurrence of bloody revolutions have been on the decline. Most revolutions were inspired by Marxist ideologies. Previously former Soviet Union was seen as beacon of hope for people with revolutionary's ideas. Many revolutionaries at some point or the other had some kind of backing, contacts, training or indoctrinations from the former Soviet Union. Examples are as follows; Late Chairman Mao of China, Fidel Castrol of Cuba, Raul Castro (present Cuban leader following the ill health of his elder brother Fidel Castrol) late Che Guevara, late Salvador Allende (former socialist president of Chile) etc.

Other countries like Libya, Cuba etc have sponsored revolutions at different stages, in different countries of the world. These revolutionary supports took place mainly during the 1970's and 1980's. Libya supported Charles Taylor of Liberia and was deeply involved with shipping arms to the Irish Republican Army (IRA). The Irish Americans also supported the Irish Republican Army in Ireland. Cuba had their forces in Angola to support the MPLA.

Other forms of revolution have taken places around the world. Here I will comment briefly about the Islamic revolution in Iran and the Orange revolution in Ukraine. In 1979 Ayatollah Khomeini led an Islamic revolution to topple the Iranian monarchy. Through the revolution led by Khomeini, Iran became an Islamic Republic and introduced theocratic constitution. The Orange revolution took place in Ukraine from November 2004 to early 2005 when the people of Ukraine resisted the attempt by Russia to install a puppet as the leader of Ukraine. The people of Ukraine overwhelmingly voted a pro western government.

Previously colonization, neocolonialism, the struggle for independence, cold war, Apartheid in South Africa, and capitalism (greed and exploitation) were among the motivating factors for revolution in most countries. Ironically these factors do no longer exist, except capitalism and neocolonialism. In Africa, greed, corruption and bad governance exists in greater proportion. However some revolutionaries have emerged in Africa

# Vacancies for Revolutionaries in Nigeria.

Chinedu Vincent Akuta

to clean up their societies. People like Jerry Rawlings of Ghana who was nick named Junior Jesus because of his initials J.J. (Jerry John) Rawlings. He cleansed the Ghana politics and retrieved all stolen government monies from corrupt Ghanaian politicians. He laid down the foundation of the present democratic system of government in Ghana. He preached to Ghanaians to demand accountability from their leaders. The Libyan leader (Col. Gadaffi) once said that it was the Rawlings revolution that saved Ghana.

In Nigeria we have had people like late General Murtala Mohammed, General Buhari (both military ex heads of state) and General Tunde Idiagbon. They tried to clean up the Nigerian system but their administrations were short lived. Many Nigerians are revolutionaries in their own rights, and revolution can take place in any sector or start from any segment of our society. Here I will mention Chief Gani Fawehinmi (Senior Advocate of the masses), Gani's efforts have changed the Nigerian landscape. Many other Nigerians too, have brought outstanding changes in various spheres of Nigerian

society. Internationally we have people like Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King etc. I consider these people revolutionaries in their own rights.

Many of us, who are praying for change to happen in our motherland, are advised to start the change process wherever they are. Let's change for good. I will agree with late Michael Jackson when he sang in one of his songs (Man in the mirror) that if you want to make the world a better place, take a look at yourself and make a change. In the same way, Nigerians should first take a look at themselves and start the change. We have role models to copy or follow their ideas. If a small percentage of us start this change process wherever they are and be consistent, then there could be hope to revive Nigeria. We have to remember that we have a choice to either save Nigeria or sink Nigeria. To save Nigeria we have a duty to start the change process immediately. Every little positive effort will matter a lot. Failure to save Nigeria will be disastrous.

But I must caution people that, there will be no quick fix to Nigeria's problem. Changing the entire Nigerian system will be a difficult project; therefore we should be prepared for a tough project. Many of us will resist changes. Change itself is

difficult. Many of Nigerians who are below 40 years have known no other

## Why Niger Deltans Must Continue To Fight

By Majiri Oghene Bob

**T**heory and practice are two arrows in an archer's quiver. Notice that whenever an archer takes aim at a target, he involuntarily reaches behind to his quiver and pulls out any of the arrows. In most cases, he hardly cares which of the theory or practice arrows he pulls out, probably because both arrows are sturdy and straight and usually cut through gravity with the same efficacy and strength. To a seasoned marksman, pulling out the other arrow would not be because he missed with the first shot, but that he wants to take aim again to finish the quarry off.

But this archery will be careful to take a little peek backwards before pulling out a particular arrow, the theory arrow. We should be careful to do this because of the need to establish some sort of semblance of balance and poise needed to take aim accurately. So, let us reach out to the mobius leitmotif in an award-winning book, *The Fortunes of Wangrin*, as our theory arrow. Hampate Ba's *The Fortunes of Wangrin*, was a book written in Mali in 1973 lampooning the French colonial policies of Assimilation and much later of Association. The protagonist, a victim of colonialism, rose to become an enfant-terrible to the French colonial government. But to his Mandingo compatriots, he was a local Robin Hood, playing the colonial administration against itself and gaining comparative advantage for himself and for his people. He had many reasons for doing some of the nasty things he did to outwit the French. According to Wangrin, there can never be any established moral precepts until the dust of a nation's history has settled.

It will be in the interest of this archer to finish off the wounded and charging bull with another theory arrow. The year is 1952.

The country is Kenya, Obama's ancestral homestead. Long before that time, the Kikuyu who were the major Kenyan tribe had complained that the British were using them as slaves to work lands that belonged to their ancestors. Agitations fell on deaf ears. Pleas from the Kikuyu that they wanted to have greater participation in the affairs of their land were ignored. The following year, a guerilla army known as the Mau-Mau Emergency began an onslaught on the British authority. It was only after 11,000 Mau-Mau had died, 100 Europeans and 2000 pro-British Africans had also been killed that the British decided to offer Kenya Independence. The significant thing

about this story is that in fictionalizing this incident in his book, *The Trial of Dedan Kimathi*, Ngugi Wa Thiongo made it clear that even though there is no liberty without law and order, there can be no order and law without liberty.

These are inalienable truths. Nobody will give you what rightly belongs to you if you don't fight for it. Now then, let us apply the practice arrow to the situation in the Niger Delta, shall we? The outcry that greeted the attacks by these 'militants', particularly on the Atlas Cove, a federal government facility in Lagos, several months ago was loud. Nearly everybody said that the body that attacked that oil facility flew off its spindle and lost both its brief and public sympathy. They also said that since the problem is a Niger Delta problem, MEND should focus more on attacking the Niger Delta and leave the rest of Nigeria alone. Well, those who responded to these suggestions have already said that the Niger Delta problem is a Nigerian problem, and this is not an attempt

to reiterate that sentiment.

Conflicts take place all over the world because you and I want to control the things that generate money and wealth. Now, since we cannot have everything we want, and get everything we have, states put institutions in place to ensure a reasonable distribution of the commonwealth to all. We all know that in Nigeria, this has never been so. And just the same way that the Mau-Mau and the Irish Republican Army, IRA, fought for what is their birthright, Nigerians in the Niger Delta are not doing anything different from the Mau-Mau or the IRA. The way they are today, Niger Deltans are the most traumatized and marginalized people in the world right now. Everybody exploits them. Their own people exploit them. Their governors also are at a crossroad whether to feather their own nests, the nest of their political parties or to join the fray. So at that point, there is nothing wrong in adopting guerilla tactics or the scotched earth policy that great generals like Napoleon Bonaparte adopted in the prosecution of their wars. Like Wangrin, the people of the Niger Delta must realize that in seeking a resolution to the conundrum of the Niger Delta, self interest must be the determining factor. What must be done must be done. Guerilla warfare is not the same thing that took place between the US and Saddam Hussein. It is deeper and much more complicated than that. You hit hard and run. You take the fight to the 'enemy'. Ruse and subterfuge rule. You don't operate a standing army. That is why there can be no established codes of warfare, particularly when you are fighting a standing army like the Nigerian army which boasts that it is paid, trained and equipped to kill.