



Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja

Press Release

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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WARNS AGAINST ILLEGAL RECRUITMENT OF NIGERIAN CITIZENS INTO FOREIGN ARMED CONFLICTS

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria expresses grave concern over the rising and alarming cases of Nigerian citizens being illegally recruited to participate in foreign armed conflicts.

Recent media investigations and security reports indicate that Nigerian nationals were allegedly recruited under false pretences, including promises of lucrative employment, security jobs, educational opportunities, or migration incentives. Several Nigerians who have fallen victim to such unfortunate situations were deployed to combat zones after being misled and coerced into signing military service contracts.

Reports suggest that recruitment tactics involve deceptive offers of high monthly salaries, signing bonuses, and fast-tracked citizenship. In several instances, victims are reportedly compelled to sign contracts in foreign languages without adequate legal guidance, and their travel documents are allegedly confiscated upon arrival. Reports also indicate the involvement of intermediaries or agents who facilitate travel arrangements under tourist or other non-military visa categories.

The Federal Government of Nigeria unequivocally warns all citizens against engaging in or accepting any offer that involves participation in foreign armed conflicts. Such actions not only endanger lives but may also violate Nigerian and international laws governing mercenary activities and foreign enlistment. The Ministry wishes to emphasize that Nigerians who choose to participate in foreign conflicts outside approved governmental frameworks do so at their own risk.

To address the anomaly, the Government is engaging relevant domestic and international partners to investigate these developments and to enhance public awareness of the dangers of illegal recruitment. Nigerian Missions abroad have also been directed to strengthen consular vigilance and provide timely advisory services to Nigerian nationals.

The Ministry urges parents, guardians, community leaders, and educational institutions to sensitize young Nigerians about the grave risks associated with deceptive foreign recruitment schemes. Citizens are strongly advised to verify all overseas employment or study opportunities through official government channels and to report suspicious recruitment activities to appropriate authorities.

Nigeria remains committed to safeguarding the welfare and dignity of its citizens at home and abroad and reiterates its position that Nigerian nationals must not be exploited or trafficked into foreign conflicts under any circumstances.

Signed:

**Kimiebi Imomotimi Ebiefa, anipr
Spokesperson
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja
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