CONGRESS OF TOGOLAND NATIONALS IN DIASPORA. (CTND)

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CONGRÈS DES RESSORTISSANTS DU TOGO EN DIASPORA. (CTND)

PRESS RELEASE

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JULY 5 IN THE HISTORY OF TOGOLAND

July 5 1884 will never be forgotten in the history of both Western and Eastern Togoland. The day our forebears signed a treaty of suzerainty with the Germans. We, of CONGRESS OF TOGOLAND NATIONALS in DIASPORA (CTND) comprising descendants in the Republic of Togo and the former United Nations Trust Territory of Togoland under British Administration, the Western Togoland which was controversially attached to the Republic of Ghana, deem it appropriate to make our voice heard on this day and to make our presence felt.

Some 138 years ago, Germany entered into business arrangements with our Overlord, King Mlapa II. This relationship was based on mutual benefits which begun the experience of impressive economic progress in almost all spheres of life, especially in education, politics,religion, social and economic development. This progress was unnecessarily disrupted by the advent of the First World War (WW 1). Togoland was much to become a beacon of hope for the rest of Africa, being the first nation in Africa to have a Radio station at Kamina, flourishing agriculture sector and massive infrastructure. With respect to agric sector the former Slave Coast was transformed into a Grain Coast and a world leader in raw cotton production. Our land was also doing well in the production of Cacao, Palm, cereals crops such as Maize, Sorghum, and Millet amongst others. But for the WW 1, which started thousands of miles away in Europe, brought to our doorstep by France and Britain, they attacked us from both sides fiercely knowing very well we were not part of the war and could not have prepared for such surprises! Our people were mowed down and trodden under foot of unpitying blood thirsty soldiers of France and Britain. Sadly, some of these soldiers were Africans.

Today we are still suffering from the effects of that act of invasion of an unarmed nation in the name of retaliation against Germany. Our question is since Germany, France and Britain were all close to one another in Europe why not attack Berlin in revenge but rather Africans.

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Not long after the invasion, Britain and France conspired and divide our nation between themselves from North to South, by sharing the booties even before the end of the war. For the timely intervention of the world governing body,the League of Nations, our lives were saved. The world Governing body took control of the divided country and reassigned it to the same France and Britain with mandatory conditions such as 1. Providing each of their Mandates, full governmental structures. 2. Not ceding any part of the Mandatory Territory to their colonies. 3. Not erecting any military base in the Territory and 4. Not tapping any of the minerals in the Territory.

It took only France to obey the decision of both the League of Nations and her successor the United Nations Organization (UNO), by providing all the functioning governmental structures needed to liberate the eastern half of the Togoland, and whether it was badly managed or not, it was far better than what Britain did with the western half. It is not surprising that a check from the UNO archives and records revealed that ONLY the TOGOLAND posed lots of challenges to the officers of the organization at the time. This was because Britain badly wanted her original intention of adding the proceeds of the war to her colony achieved at all costs. For example, UNO resolutions 555,650, and 860 point to these facts, even though the issue was nicknamed the "Ewe Unification Problem", it was rather a problem because Britain had made it so. The Ewe tribe existed as a TOGOLAND tribe before the discovery of Africa by sojourners of Europe and the borderline was clearly in place between them and the Ga Adangbe people of Adafoa beyond the estuary of river Volta. That is how far TOGOLAND stretched along the shores of the Gulf of Guinea. Knowing this history, it beats imagination as to how these facts got misinterpreted for colonial political gains all this years and to date, people who fail to research history by themselves kept dwelling on the lies of some half-baked historians who were afraid of speaking the truth to power and have kept reproducing the fallacies. Have you ever asked yourself which Ewe tribe or town signed the Bond of 1844 that gave birth to Gold Coast? Well, that is a topic for another discussion.

Recently, Mr. Yao Osafo Marfo one of the voices of today's Ghanaian leadership opened a debate on which tribes truly took part in the independence agenda for Ghana. Conspicuously all the narratives omitted anything about Western Togoland tribes, this wasn't deliberate but it was the truth that Western Togoland and her tribes played "NO" role in the independence journey of the nation Ghana. For this reason anytime the history of Ghana is told only the Gold Coast is mentioned. Yes, you will see no monument anywhere that symbolizes the Union of Gold Coast and Togoland under British Administration to become independent Ghana! Not even a day was fixed to remember the events of this huge impact.

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We hope our chiefs are following keenly on their relevance in the scheme of affairs in the country Ghana. No wonder in 1982 the famous National Association of Indigenous Ghanaians (NAIG) wrote to various international organizations about their unwillingness to have the people of TOGOLAND in their midst.

The CTND has reflected on various options that could make our existence relevant but it appears all avenues are blocked. The only avenue left is to correct the wrong to enable a briefing space to turn things around. We have followed the activities of the Homeland Study Group Foundation (HSGF) for years and have gotten the clue from our Oldman Mr Charles Kormi Kudzordzi who was very focus on correcting the wrong. Clearly the foundation is poiste at gaining a total statehood for the former British Togoland, we see how wonderfully and peaceful the foundation has carried out her activities all this years amidst Threats and arrests. It is not also by coincidence that the HSGF is founded on 5 July 1994 same date of the Suzerainty of 5 July. Which has a significance for the citizens of TOGOLAND, both in Republic of Togo and Western Togoland. Western Togoland is still grappling with activities of independence since 1956 after the Trusteeship Council terminated the Trusteeship Agreement for Britain to grant both Gold Coast and Togoland independence some 65 years ago. We must not forget this day that remind us of our one-time relationship with the Germans and the events thereafter.

It is saddening to see Ghana have our citizens in her prisons under a military decree which outlived its usefulness in the 21-century democracy. On one hand, Ghana talks about safeguarding the principle of freedom of speech and association in her constitution, on the other hand, she's keeping citizens of a united nation in prison and others are arranged before her Courts on same articles of her 1992 constitution. We can not continue this rhetoric and media gymnastics. We need to be factual and principled to the point of correction and allow the true wind of freedom to blow.

We congratulate the leadership of Homeland Study Group Foundation (HSGF) for keeping to peaceful means of redress even in the face of great threat to their lives. It is refreshing to note that Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) has described the activities of the Foundation as peaceful and has called on Ghanaian authorities to do same, and have gone ahead to file a complaint against Ghana at the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD). Check this link for details: (https://twitter.com/UNPOintl/status/1485997188509536261?t=pdZPSBdfJIgmN_BZVj86qA&s=19). We congratulate the UNPO for being a voice for the voiceless.

We advise the Ghanaian leadership to rather build a concensus with the leadership of the HSGF for peace to rain.

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All CTND is calling for is sober reflections and novelty in dealing with the call for Western Togoland demand for statehood.

Ghanaian leadership should understand that the two nations have existed separately since the division and can only share close borders and work together.

What Britain failed to do before the Plebiscite was:

1. Britain was not able to provide any governing structures for the Trust Territory as France did.

2. Britain ruled or administered the Territory from her colony the Gold Coast until the days of the Plebiscites which was wrong. Britain denied the Western Togoland people the chance to have a fair representation.

3. Britain didn't arrange for any institutions to represent the TOGOLAND people before going ahead to announce the Union between them.

4. Mr. Noble rushed and officially inform UNO that at the midnight of 5/6 of May 1956 the union between TOGOLAND under British Administration and Gold Coast has been effected. This cast a slur on our integrity as a people. Are we not adults and well-educated? Don't we know and understand what a union between two adults should be or look like?

We urge all to remain resolute, and Peaceful to have this anomaly corrected.

We urge the international community not to ignore the happenings in Ghana today. This can be a recipe for the unthinkable.

From our hearts we salute the memory of Mr Charles Kormi Kudzordzi aka Papavi Hogbedetor for his bravery, courage and zeal in championing the course for Western Togoland's independence. Some people may argue that a radical mean maybe be sorted since 1994 to enable WTL gain her statehood, but that would have been wrong memories of loss than gains looking at what is happening in a similar situation elsewhere.

We end with one of Papavi's famous advise "Ame si ƒe nya dzɔna me tsɔa efia dua ɣe o." To wit, one whose case is right doesn't dance with the axe. We understood him to mean the call for Western Togoland decoupling from Ghana is a rightful course and is within the rights of the people to do so BUT they should do so devoid of violence.

This man is a Hero, we challenge whoever oppose this fact, otherwise the definition of heroism has changed in the last 100 years.

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We wish Papavi Hogbedetor Mr Kudzordzi peaceful rest and may he find a place with his maker.

Rest in peace, Soldier.

Thank you all.

By CTND to HSGF and to all at the corridors of peace.

Cc:

All media houses both Togo and Ghana.

Watch out for our next message.

Shalom.

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