



**Report on Campaign against Electoral Violence – 2007
Oyo State**

**With the collaboration of
Centre for Rural Health and Development**



REPORT OF

CAMPAIGN AGAINST ELECTION VIOLENCE IN NIGERIA

[CAEVIN]

IN OYO STATE, NIGERIA

BY

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Preamble

Acts of political violence threatens the integrity of the April 2007 elections in Nigeria. One of the principles of liberal democracy is the requirement to organise regular, free and fair elections.

Nigeria has a history of problems associated with the conduct of elections by civilian regimes (1964 and 1983) Although the civilian to civilian transition of 2003 was “successful”, the election was marred with a lot of irregularities. According to the Transition Monitoring Group (TMG), a coalition of 170 civil society organisations that deployed 10,000 observers to monitor the election, the election was “significantly marred by incidents of violence, intimidation and killing of voters in many states”. The results of the election were not accepted by many of the political parties. The result of the election into the State Houses of Assembly, Federal House of Representatives, The Senate and the gubernatorial and presidential elections were challenged at the election petition tribunals.

The 2007 elections are going in the same path as earlier elections. Newspapers are replete with assassinations of key actors and aspirants. As electoral activities heat up, more and more cases of violence are being reported or shared in informal circles. Electoral history has proved that votes do not count. Violence is used as a medium to make free and fair elections unrealistic and impossible in order for rigging to happen and ultimately ensure that People’s Mandate does not get given out to a qualified person.

The objectives of the CAEVIN Project are:

1. To influence public attitude and behaviours against electoral violence through the use of anti-violence message.
2. To encourage and empower men, women and youth to organize and avoid electoral violence in their communities.

History of Ibadan

Ibadan is a city in southwest Nigeria, capital of Oyo State, 145 km/90 mi northeast of Lagos; population (urban area, 1991 est.) 1,835,300. Ibadan is the second-largest city in the country, and is a major commercial, industrial, and administrative centre. It is a marketplace for cocoa and other local agricultural produce. Industries include chemicals, electronics, plastics, and motor vehicle assembly; many small businesses, including flour-milling, leather-working, and furniture-making, also flourish, while craft industries include weaving, dyeing, and pottery.

Ibadan is the largest city of African origin south of the Sahara. It grew rapidly as a defensible site during the struggles among the Yoruba people during the late 18th and the first half of the 19th centuries as a military stronghold.

Ibadan South West LGA is one of the cosmopolitan LGAs carved out of the former Ibadan Municipal LGA. It comprises notable areas like Ring Road, Challenge, Apata, Odo Ona, Joyce B, Oluyole Estate, Oke Ado, Oke Bola, Molete, Iyaganku GRA, Alalubosa, Jericho-Idishin GRA, etc.

The population of the location is mainly the Yoruba people with a large population of Ibo traders and some Hausa people too. Most of the inhabitants of this area are in the middle class with some belonging to the upper and lower classes.

Major occupations of residents in the LGA include civil servants, business, trading, self employment, and teaching.

The Alliance for Democracy party was voted in into power 1999 but was massively rigged out in the 2003 polls. PDP is now in control.

The prominent political figures in this area includes Alhaji Lamidi Adedibu, Alhaji Lam Adesina, Chief Richard Akinjide, etc.

History of Oyo Town

The history of Oyo Town dates back to the Old Oyo Empire which used to be the political headquarters of the Yoruba race. The paramount ruler is the Alaafin of Oyo Kingdom and all other Kings pay homage to the Alaafin of Oyo who in return protects them with his strong army.

The present day Oyo still retains the culture and tradition of the Yoruba race but has lost its political power to civilization. The language of communication is Yoruba language. Major occupation is farming. Situated in modern day Oyo Town is the nation's foremost Education and Surveying Institutions alongside some other commercial and industrial ventures.

Ajagba Community is one of the notable and historical settlements in Oyo Town and is considered to be the political headquarters of Oyo Town. It has produced many elected representative of Oyo Town at both the Local, State and Federal levels.

The population comprises mainly of Yoruba people with some Ibo and Hausa traders in the community. Ajagba is a semi rural community.

Main economic activity includes farming, trading, carving, civil service and other self employment activities.

The Alliance for Democracy Party [AD] was voted into power in 1999 and rigged out in the 2003 elections. PDP is now in control

The most prominent political figure in the Town is Chief Olakojo.

History of Ogbomosho Town

Ogbomosho City is located in the present day, Oyo state in Nigeria. Its population is 1.1 million. Ogbomosho people are of the Yoruba ethnic group, with a large presence of Hausa and Ibo trading community in the town. According to history, Ogbomosho was founded in the 17th century. Ogbomosho City has a State University, called the Ladoke Akintola University. Ogbomosho City is a trade center for a farming region and a strategic town that links the South Western part of Nigeria with the Northern part. Yams, cassava, corn, and tobacco are grown. Cotton is grown and used to weave cloth. Hotels in Ogbomosho include the Royal Crown Hotel Ogbomosho, CHN Hotel Ogbomosho etc. Sport: Ogbomosho has a stadium with a capacity of 10,000. The Head quarter of Baptist Church in Nigeria is located in Ogbomosho. Ogbomosho is an urban town. Ogbomosho's appellation is - The Home of the Brave

Alliance for Democracy [AD] was in power from 1999 till the election of 2003 when they were rigged out by the PDP.

The most prominent political figures in the town are Otunba Christopher Alao-Akala, Chief Caleb Oyaniyi, Chief Sunday Adewusi, etc.

Project Activities:

The CAEVIN Project commenced with a 2 day Methodology and Planning meeting held in Abuja for State Coordinators between January 16-17th, 2007. Mr. Austin Emeanua and

Ojobo Atuluku briefed State Coordinators about the campaign at the end of which an MOU was signed.

The Staff of CRHD were debriefed by the Executive Director who represented the NGO at the Abuja 2 days meeting. A work plan was subsequently drawn out and tasks assigned to all for the duration of the CAEVIN Project. [Refer to Appendice 1]

On Sunday 21st January, 2007, The Exec. Director of CRHD in company of the Project Assistant were with the PSI Survey Team for briefing and planning of the Household Survey in all 4 project sites in Oyo State Vis Ring Road, Jericho Idishin, Oyo Town and Ogbomoso Town.

On Monday 22nd January, 2007, The CRHD Team joined the PSI Team to test the Household Survey instrument on some households around Oke Ado area of Ibadan.

Between 22nd – 26th January, 2007, The CRHD Team were with the PSI Survey Team in Idishin and Ring Road of the Ibadan South West LGA to note the Households that were surveyed by them so that we can target the CAEVIN campaign at the surveyed household in particular.

Between the 27-28th January 2007, the CRHD Team was in Oyo Town to monitor the households being surveyed by the PSI Team.

Between the 27-28th January, effort was also made to arrange for the logistic needs of the CAEVIN project implementation e.g. arrangements were made for local drama team, open van for the road show alongside the musical instruments.

Between the 29th of January – 3rd of February, 2007, follow-up visits were made to Idishin and Oyo Town to solidify the logistics arrangements and this was backed up with regular emails and phone communications with Mr. Austin Emeanua, the Project Coordinator in Abuja. The Journal keeper for Idishin and Ring Road were also recruited and briefed.

On 5th February, 2007 a visit was made to Oyo and Ogbomoso Town to recruit a Journal Keeper for the two sites

Between the 5th -11th February, 2007, constant visits were made to both Idishin and Oyo Town to supervise the Drama rehearsals and mobilize some key gatekeepers in the two communities.

Between the 12-14th February, 2007, the CRHD Team embarked on a pre-campaign IEC materials distribution and sensitization to various households that were surveyed by the PSI team preparatory to the main CAEVIN campaign and road show.

Between the 15-17th February, 2007, the CAEVIN Campaign and Road Show component of the project took place and the whole of Idishin community was extensively covered.

On Saturday 17th February, 2007, the CAEVIN Drama was staged by the drama team raised from within the Idishin community. This was the grand finale of the CAEVIN Project in Idishin.

Oyo Town CAEVIN:

On Tuesday 20th February, 2007, the CRHD Team moved over to Oyo Town to commence the first leg of the CAEVIN campaign there with a 2day house to house distribution of IEC materials to households that were surveyed by PSI and sensitization of the whole community of the CAEVIN Project. This ended on February 21st.

Between the 22nd- 24th February, 2007, the CAEVIN Road show and campaign around the whole of Ajagba community took place and the entire community was covered in the distribution of IEC materials and jingle about saying “no to election violence”.

On Thursday 22nd February, 2007, Mr. Austin Emeanua the Project Director was hosted at the CRHD office in Ibadan and he joined us to Oyo Town to have a first hand experience of the work being carried out there.

On Saturday the 24th February, 2007, the CRHD Team hosted Dr Pedro Vicente briefly in their Ibadan office before proceeding to Oyo for the days activities which included road show and campaigns around the Ajagba community. The day’s activities were rounded off with a drama on “Election Violence” by the drama team from the Ajagba community. The drama was preceded by a traditional dance by a Bata group which was used to draw members of the community to the venue of the drama.

Challenges:

Some of the challenges faced during the implementation the CAEVIN Project include funds insufficiency which atimes threatened to jeopardize the success of the whole campaign.

Also the delay in the arrival of the IEC materials was a great and major challenge that would have made the campaign a big flop. The Oyo State materials arrived was delivered in our office on Monday 12th while the CAEVIN Campaigns took off on Tuesday 13th!

Another major challenge faced on the field was the refusal of the Audio CD jingle to play on the first day of the CAEVIN road show which necessitated our having to use my laptop to play the CD the laptop was again in use in Ajagba to play the CAEVIN Drama CD and this lead to a major hardware fault to the laptop. This was repaired at a high cost later.

Another challenge faced was the high cost of mobility during the campaign which is directly attributable to the prevailing high cost of fuel.

Successes:

Some of the major successes faced during the CAEVIN project include:

1. the wide acceptance of the project by members of the project community
2. ability of the CRHD Team to effectively cover the 2 Treatment communities.
3. the ability of the 2 local drama team raised in the 2 treatment project locations to present the CAEVIN drama on short notice.

***Gbolahan Olubowale MSW,
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TEAM MEMBERS

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2. Morufu Olakunle
3. Femi Ayanlowo
4. Seun Salami
5. Kunle Olatawura
6. Sola Oyelade