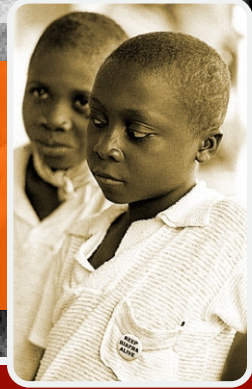




ECHEZONA PROJECT: RECONNECTING WITH THE "LOST CHILDREN FROM BIAFRA"



The Nigerian-Biafra War defined a generation. There is so much yet to be discussed about what happened, why, and the impact it has had on our lives, families, peoples of Biafra, Ndigbo in general, and Nigeria.

We believe Nigeria is still paying the price for what her leadership did during and after the War. We are, however, more concerned with hundreds, if not thousands of children who were evacuated out of Biafra to Ivory Coast, Sao Tome and Gabon, and who never made it back home to their loving families. Some of these children died from kwashiorkor or were simply "left behind" in countries that supported our people in our time of great need. Gowon's regime did not give the return of these "Biafran" children the attention it deserved after the war. Of about 5000 children



identified by UNHCR in Sao Tome, Ivory Coast and Gabon, 3911 had enough identifying information or data to be returned to their parents, relatives or foster parents (for those whose blood relatives either could not be identified, or had themselves, perished during the war). The remaining 1,089 stayed in their adopted countries. Some of those left behind are now grown men and women whose families may have presumed dead.

IGBO LEAGUE, INC. a US based human rights organization is currently working with a group of forensic geneticists who use DNA testing to reconnect missing persons with their families in present or former conflict areas. Reconnecting these "lost children" with their loved ones is our most important task.

We have code named this project "Echezona" because we will NOT allow these our brothers and sisters to be forgotten, in the spirit of "onye aghana nwanne ya".

The goals of this project are to identify and collect DNA samples from families in Nigeria with missing Biafran children, and also collect samples from survivors (starting with those currently living in Gabon), and later samples will be collected from exhumed bodies. All these data will then be pooled, and through DNA analysis and matching reconnect families with their missing loved ones.



WE ARE ASKING anyone with information about families with "lost children" or umuigbo living in Gabon, Sao Tome and Ivory Coast who were "left behind" to contact IGBO LEAGUE through this email address: info@igboleague.org or submit this form below.

Name of any family whose child or children did not return from Gabon _____

Contact info of family or next of kin:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

TEL: _____

If you are one of those who lost contact with your birth families fill in the form below:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

TEL: _____

Any relief workers, nurses, missionaries who have some knowledge of evacuated biafran children can contact us via

info@igboleague.org or call **219-677-5526**.