



## **NIGERIA CANNOT AFFORD ANOTHER CIVIL WAR**

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### **LAGOS, NIGERIA -**

The Catholic Archbishop of Lagos, Most Rev. Alfred Adewale Martins has warned against the polarization of the Nigerian nation noting that Nigerians stand to gain more living together as citizens of one united nation. He therefore called for an end to all hate speeches and other activities that could lead to another civil war and disintegration of the country.

Archbishop Martins whose concern on hate speeches and the call for the breakup of the country by some youth groups was expressed in a statement released in Lagos recently. According to him, the recent directive by the Arewa Youths for the Igbos to leave the North on or before October 1, 2017, was unacceptable and capable of further deepening the schisms being experienced across the country.

The Archbishop therefore called on the Federal Government to do everything possible to find a lasting solution to the genuine agitations of the various ethnic groups in the country in order to give everyone a sense of belonging.

He declared: "This country needs to be more united now than ever before. We do not want drum beats of war or

hate speeches. We must not trade the unity of this country for selfish motives because we have much more binding us together than those that divide us. I believe that several of the genuine agitations by the various ethnic groups can be looked into by the Federal Government with the intention of resolving them amicably without necessarily resorting to secession or bloodletting as some are currently advocating.

While noting that the country cannot afford another civil war, Archbishop Matins called on all Nigerians to be vigilant and continue to pray for peace in the country and in families.