



2009 Presidential Elections Radio Message in English

This is a message from the religious leader to the people of Guinea-Bissau:

"If we sow winds, we will harvest storms;
if we sow the truth, we will harvest the peace."

All this brought to you with the support of Citizens of Good Will, IPPP and funded by BEFORE.

Music: "Guiné" from "No Djunta Mon"

"Guiné-Guiné -- Guiné is a small country -- we should unite.
We should stop using force.
We should put our hands together.
Our country is small."

Message:

For the first time in the history of religious groups in Guinea-Bissau, leaders of the three most representative religious groups joined their voices to speak for all the citizens of Guinea-Bissau about issues of common interests -- and they promised to do the same every time that those interests are in jeopardy. On their message, the religious leaders are showing us ways and means totally different from those of violence and the use of force -- which have marked our history since the country's independence to try to solve our social and political problems. This has negatively impacted the country and has brought but more suffering and problems that we're all aware of.

This message from the religious leaders is inspired from the efforts of our elders, such as Bishop D. Settimio Ferrazzetta, Aladje Malam Seco Indjai and Pastor Ernesto Lima, which intend to show all Guinea-Bissau's people the right way, the way forward -- non violence and dialogue.

The specific appeal made by these leaders is to restrain from hostility and embrace brotherhood, so we can avoid seeing other Guineans as our adversaries or our enemies. After all, we're people not just animals. In the contrary, we should see others as our brothers who are on the same boat. We're all humans and children of the same African continent and citizens of Amilcar Cabral's motherland. We should not seek solving violence with another violence and personal vengeance. Violence calls for another violence, sometimes with bigger proportions. Thus, violence tends to go in circle, one after another. Similarly, vengeance calls for another vengeance -- often resulting in greater consequences. Thus, this circle of vengeance may not stop. All this said, justice should not be done with our own hands. We should trust the court system and demand a fair justice from them in an effective and quick way. We should not accept the continuation of impunity in Guinea-Bissau for those who are considered privileged.



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This is why that the message by the three religious leaders in Guinea-Bissau calls for replacing the unacceptable and irresponsible behavior of some, urging them to be submissive to the principles of ethics. Our morals have something of value for all of our citizens -- the military, politicians, businessmen and common citizens. This morality does not depend on some physical factors or the power of guns, one's social status or financial standings -- it does apply to all people.

As stated before, in life and society, my rights end where someone's else rights begin. No one can keep doing things the way he/she wants -- narcotraffic, corruption, the misuse of public funds, skipping work hours with no justification -- go against the common interest and social well being. Thus, we would state that it is necessary that we take seriously our faith and beliefs. One can fool people around but cannot fool God in whom we believe in. The bad things we do in our individuals lives and in our society do not only hurt our brothers, but often offend God, the one that detains humanity's greatest power of judgment. Remember, before him we will report the trajectories of our lives. Our weaknesses and mistakes are not shameful before God. Shame for us and sadness before God is when we fail to repent our mistakes and sins, so that we can have courage to change our lives.

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