

**CBTU Founders:**

Nelson "Jack" Edwards (UAW)
Charles A. Hayes (UFCW)
Cleveland Robinson (District 65 UAW)
William "Bill" Lucy (AFSCME)
William Simons (AFT)

**COALITION OF BLACK
TRADE UNIONISTS**

P.O. Box 66268
Washington, DC 20035-6268
Tel: (202) 778-3318
Fax: (202) 419-1486
Web site: www.cbtu.org

REV. TERENCE L. MELVIN

President
AFSCME

ANTHONY HARMON

Exec. Vice President
AFT

CLAYOLA BROWN

First Vice President
Workers United/SEIU

LEW MOYE

Second Vice President
UAW

YOLANDA MCCLEAN

Third Vice President
CUPE

FAITH MORRIS

Treasurer
AFSCME

WAYNE BLANCHARD

Recording Secretary
UAW

MAMIE PRATT

Corresponding Secretary
UFCW

TRUSTEES:

CLAUDE CUMMINGS JR., CWA
ELIZABETH "LIZ" POWELL, APWU

GEORGE GRESHAM, SEIU

KEN RIGMAIDEN, IUPAT

KENNETH RILEY, ILA

LORRETTA JOHNSON, AFT

FRED REDMOND, USW

SHANNA PEEKS, UMWA

WILLIAM "BILL" LUCY

President Emeritus
AFSCME

WILLIE L. BAKER JR.

Exec. Vice President Emeritus
UFCW

GWEND JOHNSON

Treasurer Emeritus
CWA

Release President Joe Ajaero of Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) Now**CBTU Statement against state sponsored kidnapping in Nigeria**

The government of Nigeria and their state sponsored paramilitary have taken the extraordinary step of kidnapping Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) President Joe Ajaero. This is an act of a fascist, anti-democratic state. It is the deed done by totalitarian regimes to quiet the voices of their working citizens. It is the action of an oppressive government in direct conflict with the people they are supposed to represent. CBTU calls for the immediate release of President Ajaero and on all US politicians and Labor Leaders to stand in solidarity with the NLC.

In the Nigerian State IMO, there has been repeated Labor actions and assaults on Labor activists fighting for their rights in a way reminiscent to the 1920's in America. State police, similar to Pinkertons, brutally beat workers protesting. In the aftermath of the carnage, President Ajaero attempted to surveil the landscape, meet with workers, comfort the injured, and engage with local Labor leadership. What he found were armed police ready to capture him and whisk him away in an act of state sponsored terrorism. To date no one has heard or seen from President Ajaero.

When the rights of workers are threatened, the rights of a nation are suspended. Workers make nations run and when they are under attack the nation is under seize from internal terrorism. Nigeria has fought too hard and for too long to revert back to its totalitarianism past. Too many have suffered and sacrificed to have a democratic nation, for the ruling government to throw that all away. President Ajaero needs to be released immediately or all other democratic nations must impose sanctions on Nigeria until otherwise. If there is no justice, there can be no peace.