

Emmanuel Ogebe, Esquire

International Human Rights Lawyer Specializing in Africa Issues

Special Counsel, Justice for Jos Project

Mr. Emmanuel Ogebe is an international human rights lawyer specializing in Africa. He earned the singular distinction of being the youngest law graduate in his home country of Nigeria. Exiled to the US after becoming one of Nigeria's political detainees during the brutal years of military dictatorship under General Abacha, Mr. Ogebe has played a role in shaping US Congressional and foreign policy in Nigeria's quest for a stable democracy. In addition to testifying before the New York City council on the historic move to name a street after a slain Nigerian activist, he was first invited to testify on Nigeria before the US Congress in the 90s. Mr. Ogebe has been a guest speaker at university campuses across the US and regularly provides expertise and insights on Nigerian issues on radio and TV programs around the world, e.g. CNN, Fox, Al Jazeera and has spoken at the Geneva Summit, the United Nations, the World Bank, the Canadian Parliament etc.

Mr. Ogebe has vast experience in managing, designing and implementing complex international programs and projects in Nigeria. For over a dozen years, he has worked in an environment reputed for hardship, poor infrastructure, political risk and corruption. His specialization in US-Nigeria affairs has positioned him strategically to relate to key players on both sides of the aisle and on both sides of the Atlantic. He was consulted by the Clinton Administration as well as the Bush Administration on their Presidential visits to Nigeria in 2000 and 2003 respectively. Mr. Ogebe's experience includes working on behalf of a US Government funding entity to identify and forge co-funding alliances with stakeholders on development projects under the bilateral trade, aid, and development promotion policies.

Mr. Ogebe holds the distinction of being the first Special Legal Consultant on Nigeria out of 100,000 lawyers admitted in the US capital. His consulting firm, the US Nigeria Law Group is located in Washington DC. He also doubles as Special Counsel for the Justice for Jos Project, a pro bono initiative of his firm, which has worked in the last half dozen years to document, litigate and garner international attention to the horrific crimes against humanity in northern Nigeria. He engages with the United Nations, The International Criminal Court, the EU and the US amongst others to advocate on behalf of the persecuted minorities. On November 13 2013, Mr. Ogebe testified before the US Congress' Africa subcommittee and was credited by the Chairman of being helpful to the US Administration's policy reversal in designating Nigerian terror group Boko Haram as a Foreign Terrorist Organization that day. Mr. Ogebe had submitted briefs to Secretaries Clinton and Kerry making a case for FTO designation.

His work with the Education Must Continue Initiative, an organization of victims helping victims, is currently helping Escaped Chibok schoolgirls who were abducted by Boko Haram in April 2014. Ten Chibok schoolgirls are currently in US schools under EMCI's Bring Our Girls Back to School project and approximately 3000 child victims of terror being taught in EMCI's IDP schools in Nigeria. In 2016, EMC launched a college project for the Chibok girls and other victims in the US. Learn more at www.emcinitiative.org.

He is a recipient of The **US President's Bronze Award** for his volunteer work helping NGOs in northern Nigeria.

Mr. Ogebe was selected for the "**Hero of the Year**" Award by the Darfur Women Action Group in conjunction with International Human Rights Day and the "Diaspora Person of the Year" Award by the Editorial Board of the Idoma Voice Newspaper.

Inspired by Emmanuel Ogebe's work with the escaped Chibok girls, famous actress and playwright Danai Gurira who wrote the Broadway play *Eclipsed* about enslaved women in Liberia, dedicated each Broadway performance of her play with a reading of the names of the missing girls. Bono, the famous lead singer of U-2, appeared on stage with the *Eclipsed* cast to launch the remembrances.