



The Most Reverend Desmond M Tutu, O.M.S.G. D.D. F.K.C.
Anglican Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town

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August 2010

President Teodoro Obiang
Equatorial Guinea

His Excellency

I am writing to you regarding your speech at the Global Forum in Cape Town in June of this year. I was fortunate to attend and participate in the Forum and have had a chance to read your July 28, 2010, speech committing your nation to a 5-point program of transparency and political, legal, and economic reform.

I was encouraged and impressed by your speech and your willingness to make these public commitments in front of the world's media and to respond-- before, during, and after your speech--to the media's questions.

I understand how difficult it can be to undertake a plan of this magnitude when you are still in the process of creating a basic infrastructure in your country. I do hope you will be able to move forward as quickly as possible to follow the fine words of your Cape Town speech with the deeds promised, despite these difficulties.

In particular, I hope you will focus as soon as possible on those commitments you made in your speech regarding protecting human rights and democratic institutions, such as a free and independent press, strong and viable opposition political parties, and an independent judiciary. I was also happy to see your continued commitment to the Social Development Fund, to use your energy revenues for the people and children and education and housing. I noted in your speech that you itemized over \$1 billion of such spending in the last year alone.

Finally, I would be happy to publicly endorse specific developments in your transparency and reform program if and as it is implemented. At the outset I understand the highest priority is the return of the International Red Cross headquarters to Equatorial Guinea. The ICRC can help you validate the progress you said in your speech your government has made in the area of human rights, prison conditions, health care and other areas of mutual concern.

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As for me, I will try to do my part to encourage the leading international human rights, democracy, and transparency NGOs to accept your invitation in your Cape Town speech to visit your country, see the situation on the ground, and to study what is happening there.

I hope and trust that human rights organizations will extend a hand to help you in the process of reform.

I look forward to help you in any way I can, understanding the limits on my time now that I am entering a less active period of my life in retirement and with more opportunity for reflection.

I hope I may be able to visit your country sometime in the future.

God bless you.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Desmond Tutu', followed by several horizontal strokes that extend to the right, suggesting a flourish or the end of a line.

Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu