



A TRIBUTE TO OUR MOTHER IN THE STRUGGLE FOR PEACE

By

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The news of the passing of Mama Hannatu Ibrahim MFR, reached us at the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) with shock and disbelief. Mama Hanatu is known by all at IPCR as a caring mother who asked after the well being of our staff, individually and collectively. Even when Mama was not physically able to be in Abuja, we often exchanged telephone calls and emails with her. I personally loved to speak with her on phone and after a conversation with Mama you would be so relieved and fulfilled due to Mama's soothing words.

Mama Hannatu was appointed consultant to the IPCR-UNDP joint projects in the North East and other parts of Nigeria. We particularly acknowledge her excellent leadership of the project that led to the publication of the IPCR-UNDP book on Women and Boko Haram in Nigeria. Mama Hannatu was not just a professional guidance counselor; she had the natural gift of a counselor par excellence. To some of us at IPCR Mama was a mentor, and to yet others, she was regarded as a dynamic source of inspiration. To our female colleagues, Mama represented that quintessential glimmer of hope that they required in facing the daily struggle of what it means to be female in a country populated by women but dominated by men. This is the struggle that had been part of mama's entire life and which she engaged with dignity.

I remember one of my phone conversations with mama in the last couple of months, when I had nominated her to participate in a specialized training on Preventing and countering violent extremism in a North African country. While she looked up to it, she had informed me that she just came out of hospital due to failing health. I then assured her that she would be fine and we prayed together. Alas, God's will for her was only gradually unfolding as the plan of the Supreme author and finisher of our faith. I therefore sincerely condole with Mama's family, on behalf of the Management and Staff of the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, Abuja. No one dare question God, and in submitting readily to Him, we have no choice but to bid Mama Hannatu farewell. May the Good Lord who accompanied her all the days of her highly eventful life send Mama's guardian angels to lead her to the bosom of the Lord; Amen. Adieu Mama!