



**CONFIDENTIAL DRAFT – FOR REVIEW**

**To Be Submitted to:**

Office of the Prosecutor  
International Criminal Court (ICC)  
The Hague, Netherlands

 **Date:** [\_\_/\_\_/2025]

 **Subject:** Submission under Article 15 of the Rome Statute – *Alleged Complicity of the United Kingdom in the Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity Committed During the Nigerian Civil War (1967–1970)*

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

This submission is made pursuant to **Article 15(1)** of the Rome Statute, requesting that the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court open a preliminary examination into the **alleged complicity of the United Kingdom government, British Petroleum (BP), and the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in genocide and crimes against humanity committed during the Nigerian Civil War**, also referred to as the **Biafran Genocide**.

It is submitted on behalf of **Truth Over Empire**, a grassroots justice initiative advocating for reparative justice and international accountability for colonial and post-colonial crimes, in collaboration with survivor communities and international legal scholars.

## **II. JURISDICTIONAL FRAMEWORK**

Although the United Kingdom is not accused of directly committing genocidal acts in Nigeria, this communication asserts that the **UK's material support, political interference, and corporate collusion constituted complicity** in crimes within the jurisdiction of the ICC, namely:

- **Genocide** (Article 6)
- **Crimes Against Humanity** (Article 7)

Additionally, the **continued withholding of critical evidence**, suppression of truth, and obstruction of survivor justice could be construed as **ongoing violations**, relevant under the “**continuing effects doctrine**.”

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### III. SUMMARY OF FACTS

#### A. The Biafran War (1967–1970)

- Approximately **1 to 3 million people**, primarily of **Igbo ethnicity**, perished due to **blockades, aerial bombardments, starvation, and forced displacement**.
- Eyewitnesses, international aid workers, and journalists described the conflict as “**a calculated war of extermination**”.
- The Nigerian federal government, led by General Yakubu Gowon, carried out policies targeting Biafran civilians—including **food embargoes, destruction of relief centers, and indiscriminate killings**.

#### B. UK Involvement

- The **UK government**, led by Prime Minister Harold Wilson, **provided direct military support** to the Nigerian government during the conflict, including:
  - Supply of **Hawker Hunter jets**, small arms, and armored vehicles.
  - Diplomatic support at the United Nations to **block peace negotiations and humanitarian interventions**.
- **British Petroleum (BP)** ensured continuous oil exports from war-torn Nigeria, **profiting directly from conflict-ridden oil fields**.
- The **BBC**, a state-funded broadcaster, **systematically distorted coverage**, discrediting humanitarian concerns and justifying UK policy.

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### IV. LEGAL BASIS FOR COMPLICITY

#### A. Genocide – Article 6 of the Rome Statute

Under the **Genocide Convention**, the UK may be liable for:

- **Complicity in genocide** (Article 3(e) of the Genocide Convention)

- Facilitating conditions intended to destroy, in whole or in part, the Igbo ethnic group through:
  - Arms and financial support for genocidal military campaigns
  - Political and diplomatic protection for perpetrators
  - Economic incentives linked to the conflict (notably oil)

## **B. Crimes Against Humanity – Article 7**

The UK's support materially aided:

- **Extermination** (Article 7(1)(b))
- **Persecution against an identifiable group** (Article 7(1)(h))
- **Inhumane acts causing great suffering** (Article 7(1)(k))

These were widespread and systematic, with foreseeability of consequences.

## **V. EVIDENCE SUBMITTED**

This submission is supported by:

- **Declassified British Government documents** (1966–1975)
- **Testimonies from survivors and humanitarian aid workers**
- **Reports from international observers and NGOs**
- **Historical accounts, photographs, and documented starvation policies**
- **Academic publications and investigative journalism**
- [Placeholder for Legal Briefs and Survivor Testimony Templates – to be appended]

A full **index of supporting documents** is attached as **Annex I**.

## VI. REQUEST FOR ACTION

We respectfully request that the Office of the Prosecutor:

1. **Initiate a preliminary examination** into the role of the United Kingdom and its institutions in the Biafran Genocide.
2. **Engage with survivor communities and diaspora organizations** for further testimonies.
3. Investigate the ongoing **denial, cover-up, and suppression** of evidence and the UK's failure to acknowledge or redress its role.

## VII. CONCLUSION

The mass death of civilians in Biafra constitutes one of the most egregious atrocities in post-colonial African history. The UK government's complicity, driven by **geopolitical interests and economic gain**, enabled and prolonged the suffering of millions.

Justice delayed is justice denied—but justice **must not** be silenced.

We call on the ICC to uphold its mandate to fight impunity—especially when the perpetrators are powerful and the victims forgotten.

Respectfully submitted,

**Emmanuel Emeka Ogbuanu**

Founder & Lead Advocate

**Truth Over Empire**

Email: [info@truthoverempire.com](mailto:info@truthoverempire.com)

Phone: +46 (0) 734039923

Website: <https://truthoverempire.com>