

## **ANA PRESS RELEASE ON THE DEATH OF PROFESSOR CHINUA ACHEBE**

The Association of Nigerians Abroad (ANA), an internet based (<http://nigeriansabroad.org/>) non-political, non-religious, non-partisan, and non-profit organization wishes to express its sincere condolence on the death of renowned prolific writer, Professor Chinua Achebe.

There are those we have had the opportunity to meet and know in life that may or may not touch and/or influence our thinking. However, Professor Chinua Achebe was one of those that when you encountered him, you would be enriched by his wisdom, knowledge of human history and advice on outlook on real life. He was a rare breed. Amid the sadness of his passing, we felt fortunate to have known a man that epitomizes the essence of life, patriotism, culture and how we must live it.

There is no denying his major impact on the African Literary scene with the publication of his famous book, *Things Fall Apart*. Achebe was an active participant in Nigerian history since its independence.

We recognize that many of our leaders of Achebe's generation, especially the actors of the civil war are crossing over to the beyond. In one way or the other, all Nigerians were victims of the war. Achebe's role will continue to invoke divergent views. What we ought to remind ourselves is that ethnic hatred, intolerance, and violent language led to the civil war.

The Eagle on The Iroko, as he was known, scaled over lots of obstacles with his gentle smiles and humility. His memories and the legacy he left behind for those of us he touched will bloom in glory. Achebe has served his generation. May the Lord God in his infinite mercy give the family that he left behind the fortitude to move on and keep his memory alive...Amen!