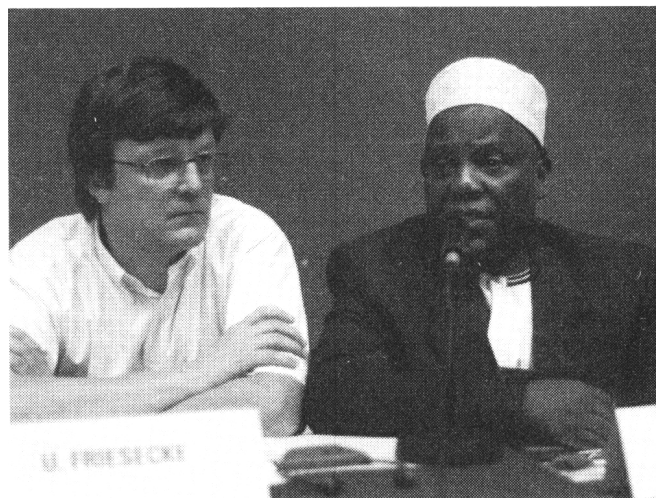


**Below:** Conference organizers Dr. Godfrey Binaisa (right) and Uwe Friesecke of the Schiller Institute in Germany. **Left:** Speakers from Nigeria (left to right): Chief Abiola Ogundokun, Prof. G.O. Olusanya, Nigerian Ambassador to France, and Chief Odumegwu Ojukwu.



## Paris Conference Further Movement for African Civil Rights

A conference on “Peace, Development, and Human Rights in Africa” was held in Paris, France, on July 11, hosted by the Schiller Institute. Over 150 diplomats, government leaders, and journalists attended, including representatives of Nigeria, Ivory Coast, and Uganda. Among the speakers were former Ugandan President Godfrey Binaisa, the Nigerian ambassador to France, Prof. G.O. Olusanya, and Chief Odumegwu Ojukwu, a representative of the Constitutional Conference of Nigeria, who is well known for his leadership in the independence struggle of Biafra.

The conference followed months of organizing activity by Dr. Binaisa and the Schiller Institute, including:

- On March 12, Dr. Binaisa announced the formation of the Ugandan Civil Rights Movement (UCRM). The announcement was made in Stockholm, Sweden, where he keynoted a conference sponsored by the Schiller Institute.

- In April, Dr. Binaisa issued a call “To All Africans of Good Will: Let Us Form an African Civil Rights Movement.” The call stated:

“We, as leaders of the African fight for independence, must realize that, when the flags of our former colonial masters were taken down, the policy of colonial exploitation did not end, but continued unabated under the injustices of the international monetary and economic arrangements made at Bretton Woods in 1944, which never left us in Africa the chance for real development and peace.

“Except for a brief period at the beginning of the 1960’s, the promises we understood to have been made in the Atlantic Charter in 1941, for the time after the war, ‘that all the men in all the lands may live out their lives in freedom from fear and want,’ were never kept. Instead, the African continent continued to be robbed of its natural and human resources, just as in colonial times.

“And looking back, we see with great sorrow, that too many of our own elites have helped this process of looting and subjugating the majority of our African people. Starting with events in today’s Zaire and the first military coup in Nigeria in 1966, we became victims of flagrant interventions of the colonial

powers into our sovereignty. They killed or otherwise removed from power those leaders who dared to challenge the new colonial arrangements, just as they killed John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King in America.”

- On May 15, Alhaji (Chief) Abiola A. Ogundokun, of the Yoruba tribe of Nigeria, who is a member of the National Constitutional Conference, became one of the first leaders to endorse Binaisa’s call, saying in part, “Our recent experience in Nigeria has taught us once more that any attempt by African countries to break out of the constraints of the economic strangulation of the International Monetary Fund, is met with the fiercest attack. I am more convinced to take this stand because economic confusion has been caused in most African countries and the West has specifically of late accused Nigeria of not having democracy. How democratic are the accusers when they are withholding necessary imports for our hospitals, books for our schools, or spare parts for our machineries, and are strangling us with debt payments?”

He called on other Africans “to join me in this crusade.”