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IBPP Research Associates: Nigeria

Staff Writer - The Post Express

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This week features information about The Post Express at <http://www.postexpresswired.com>. The Express is an independent newspaper based out of Ogun, Nigeria and dedicated to promoting the prospects of democracy and justice in Nigeria and to reaching those who have not abandoned the faith that human affairs are best administered in the spirit of reason and in a climate of true democracy. It is the first newspaper with truly national reach and the ability to access and disseminate international news on a daily basis.

The Post Express features the Inkenga symbol. Why? According to The Express, "In most unspoiled African societies, masks, carvings, statues, monuments are presences that capture and freeze the changing countenances of immortal man and embody secular and religious essences. "The Post Express chose the Nigerian Inkenga to serve as an ancestral and timeless symbol around which to anchor the totality of the mission and aspirations of the newspaper. According to African mythology, the Inkenga symbolizes success in trade, hunting and framing. It is also the personal shrine of man's 'right hand' or 'life force.' Kept in individual treasure troves in homesteads, it is everyman's symbol of justice and fair play in a communal social context as well as a constant reminder of one's sacred obligation to relate to each man on the basis of fairness, justice and equity. To physically, verbally or intellectually assault the Inkenga is a veritable act of abomination, an act of hubris which disturbs the harmony between man and man; man and community and community and life force. It is precisely the principles inherent in these assumptions that shall guide the facts presented; the opinions expressed and the values upheld in The Post Express."

[The article from The Post Express originally discussed by IBPP – Senate Honours Abiola by a staff writer at the paper – could not be provided for download because copyright permissions could not be obtained. The brief article described the political reaction to Chief Moshood Abiola's death, which occurred after he had won the June 1993 presidential election but while he was in detention. He was described in the article "as the greatest president Nigeria never had."]

(IBPP Commentary: As with the Inkenga, there are timeless qualities to the short text above. A man symbolizing a chance for greater peace, liberty, and justice dies before seeing the promise land. In death comes his victory. In death comes his fame and honor. But it is his life that made all this possible.)
(Keywords: Abiola, Inkenga, Nigeria.)