

CHARACTERS IN THE PLAY

P. S.	-	-	-	-	Superintendent of Prisons
Nnedu	-	-	-	-	Prison Sergeant
Boko	-	-	-	-	Prison Corporal
Stella	-	-	-	-	Girlfriend to the P. S
Obi	-	-	-	-	A prisoner (Leader of the Comrados)
Onwu-	-	-	-	-	A prisoner (Head of the Prisoners)
Buchi	-	-	-	-	A prisoner
Mezie-	-	-	-	-	A born – again Prisoner

The play is set in the recent past, in any highly volatile regime in Africa where the masses are oppressed, choked by poverty, repression and insentivity in the midst of plenty. The play takes place in the home front where that activities of the war are not greatly felt, except for occassional motor sounds, hunger and insecurity of lives and property.

Movement One

Setting – [A lawn behind a house in the Prisoners' quarters. Four war prisoners dressed in calico (white baft,) their hairs shaved, are out on punishment. They are charged with running away from the war front and raping girls who refused conscription into the militia. They have been tried and sentenced to jail (with hard labour). They are better referred to as stragglers or "awols". It is about 3 p.m. The scene opens in a field behind Corporal Boko's house. Three war prisoners are busy cutting grass under the heat of the sun, while the fourth produces the "music while you work" as the cutlasses respond to the rhythm of the music. There are shady trees in the lawn.]

Onye gbuwe achara	Cut your own grass
Onye gbuwe	Let me cut mine
Onye akpola ibe ya onye ukoni (twice)	Let nobody call each other a prisoner (twice)
Onye ukoni, Onye ukoni	A prisoner, A prisoner
Onye akpola ibe ya onye ukoni	Let nobody call each other a prisoner