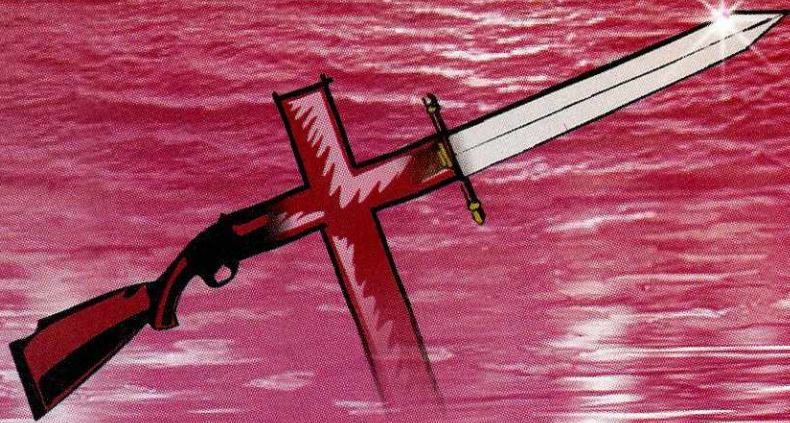




Winner, The Nigeria Prize for Literature, 2006

# Hard Ground



**Ahmed Yerima**

(Winner, ANA/NDDC J. P. Clark Drama Prize, 2006)

*Published by*

**Kraft Books Limited**

6A Polytechnic Road, Sango, Ibadan  
Box 22084, University of Ibadan Post Office  
Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria

© 234 (2) 7523177, 0803 348 2474, 0804 210 8712  
E-mail: kraftbooks@yahoo.com

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First published 2006

ISBN 978-039-158-4

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First printing, February 2006

Second printing, November 2006

“... It is a dramatization of the Niger Delta crisis. It is a taut account of the intense family relationships and powerful emotions kept in precarious control by the threat of violence hovering in the background of the characters’ encounters .... This is writing of high thematic value and of national and international relevance as it affects not only the nation’s deep concern with the current crisis in the Niger Delta but also Nigeria’s international image ....

“... *Hard Ground* is a powerful and psychological wrenching tale that draws on the sad history of the Niger Delta as well as its contemporary, real-life political drama. It also gives us the occasional but telling glimpse into the pathos of personal relationships and the drawn-out psychological suffering of its most vulnerable characters .... But above all this, what the play effectively presents, as the valuable lesson of this war is the impact of the crisis on private lives ....”

—Judges Citation, NLNG-sponsored, *The Nigeria Prize for Literature, 2006 Award.*

Director, actor, playwright and scholar, Ahmed Yerima, is the General Manager, National Theatre of Nigeria as well as Artistic Director, National Troupe of Nigeria. His other works include *Modern Nigerian Theatre: The Geoffrey Axworthy Years, 1956-1967*; *Basic Techniques in Playwriting*; *Theatre and Democracy in Nigeria* (co-edited with Ayo Akinwale); *Idemili*; *Ameh Oboni the Great*; *The Limam and Ade Ire*; *The Angel and Other Plays*; *Otaelo*; *The Lottery Ticket*; *Yemoja*; *Dry Leaves on Ukan Trees*; *The Sisters*; *The Sick People*; *Attahiru*; *The Trials of Oba Ovonramwen*; *Kaffir’s Last Game*; *The Bishop and the Soul*; and *The Silent Gods*.

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ISBN 978-039-158-4



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