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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by European Centre for Law and Justice, The / Centre Européen pour le droit, les Justice et les droits de l'homme, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.

Nigeria Must Take Immediate Action To Stop The Senseless Violence Being Perpetrated Against Christians Daily

1. INTRODUCTION

In 2025, Nigeria was ranked as the 7th worst country for Christians because of violence being perpetrated against Christians by Islamic militants like the Fulani herdsman.(1) The atrocities carried out by the Fulani herdsman against Christians are barbaric and know no bounds. Every week, there are new reports of Christians being slaughtered in their villages by Fulani herdsman wielding guns and machetes. In addition to the senseless killings of innocent Christians, Fulani herdsman have also burned down and destroyed villages. Shockingly, Nigeria alone accounts for 69% of Christians killed around the world last year.(2)

2. BACKGROUND

Islamic militants have killed tens of thousands of innocent Christians across Nigeria.(3) In recent years, it has become rare for the annual number of Christians killed in Nigeria to fall below 4,000.(4) It must be noted that the number of Christians facing persecution in Nigeria is much higher than the death toll. In addition to those killed, Christians have also been kidnapped, beaten, and their property destroyed, all because they believe in Jesus.(5)

The ongoing violence has also created a massive humanitarian crisis, as many people have been forced to flee their homes in search of safety. It is estimated that more than 7.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance(6) and more than 3.7 million people remain displaced from their homes.(7)

Despite the shocking level of senseless violence occurring in Nigeria, the government has been unwilling to take action to protect Christians and stop the attacks. In some cases, security forces are nearby yet fail to intervene and stop attacks. One villager reported after an attack on July 15, 2025, that “[t]his attack occurred despite the visible presence of security forces in and around the area, including armored military assets” and that “[t]he identities and hideouts of these attackers are known to authorities, yet no meaningful action has been taken to dismantle them.”(8) This particular attack resulted in the deaths of twenty-seven Christians.(9) Below, we have highlighted even more attacks that have been carried out against Christians in just the past few months. Unfortunately, these are just a fraction of the attacks that are being carried out against Christians daily.

3. VIOLATIONS

On July 14, 2025, Fulani herdsman attacked a predominantly Christian village in Plateau State.(10) Around 3 a.m., the Fulani herdsman destroyed homes, farmlands, and killed more than thirty-two people, including a three-month-old baby.(11) One villager who survived the attack shared his account of the attack, “[t]hey came from all sides, shooting and setting houses on fire. Anyone who ran was shot. My neighbor’s entire family was killed in their home.”(12)

On July 11, 2025, Fulani herdsman attacked a group of Christians attending a Bible study at Evangelical Church Winning All in Kaduna State.(13) Five Christians were killed and three more were injured in the attack.(14)

On July 10, 2025, three seminarians were kidnapped in Edo State.(15) It was the second time in less than a year that the seminary was attacked.(16)

On July 7, 2025, Fulani herdsman attacked two villages in Kaduna State and killed two Christians.(17)

In June 2025, Fulani herdsmen killed fifty Christians in Guma County.⁽¹⁸⁾ One of those killed was a pregnant woman whose preborn baby was removed by the attackers and mutilated.⁽¹⁹⁾

Between June 8 and June 14, 2025, more than 218 people were killed and more than 6,000 were displaced after attacks were carried out in predominantly Christian villages in Benue State.⁽²⁰⁾ The most deadly of the attacks occurred on June 13, 2025, when suspected Fulani herdsmen attacked a displacement camp that was sheltering 400 people in Yelewata.⁽²¹⁾ The attackers burned down buildings and attacked people with guns and machetes. Approximately 200 people were killed in the attack.⁽²²⁾

On June 1, 2025, more than forty-three Christians were killed by Fulani herdsmen.⁽²³⁾ The attack happened at 7 p.m., when a convoy of Fulani herdsmen attacked two separate communities in Benue State.⁽²⁴⁾

On May 14, 2025, Fulani herdsmen carried out coordinated attacks across predominantly Christian farming communities in Plateau State.⁽²⁵⁾ The attacks resulted in the deaths of eight Christians, and more than 740 acres of farmland destroyed.⁽²⁶⁾ Most of the individuals who were killed in the attack were children.⁽²⁷⁾

In May 2025, at least six people were killed in the predominantly Christian community of Marit and Gashish in Plateau State.⁽²⁸⁾ It is believed that Fulani herdsmen were behind the attack.⁽²⁹⁾

Between April 18 and 20, 2025, Fulani herdsmen murdered more than seventy-two Christians in Ukum and Logo.⁽³⁰⁾ In addition to those killed, the attacks cause thousands to leave the area and become displaced.

On April 13, 2025, Islamic militants attacked Zikke village following a Palm Sunday church service.⁽³¹⁾ More than fifty-one Christians were killed in the attack.⁽³²⁾ Several other villages were also attacked, resulting in more than 100 Christians being killed.⁽³³⁾

4. REQUEST

Clearly, Nigeria has taken no action to stop thousands of Christians from being murdered because of their faith. It has been demonstrated over the years that continued inaction only leads to more and more innocent Christians being attacked and killed. Immediate and meaningful action must be taken now to put a stop to the senseless violence. Because the Nigerian government is either unwilling or incapable of protecting its citizens, the UN and the international community must work with Nigeria to ensure that measures are put in place to stop the bloodshed. In addition to stopping the violence, Nigeria must also ensure that those who have been displaced can safely return to their homes.

(1) Nigeria, OPEN DOORS.

(2) Paul Tisley, Pope, State Department Condemn Latest Massacre of Christians by Islamist Militants in Nigeria, FOX NEWS (July 1, 2025).

(3) Persecution Report: Nigeria, GLOBAL CHRISTIAN RELIEF.

(4) Id.

(5) Brad Brandon, Nigeria is a Killing Field, and Christians are the Prey, CHRISTIAN POST (June 14, 2025).

(6) Nigeria, OCHA.

(7) Nigeria – Floods and Conflict Combine to Trigger Displacement in Borno State, IDMC (May 13).

(8) Funeral Procession for 27 Christians Killed in Nigeria, MORNING STAR NEWS (July 28, 2025).

(9) Id.

- (10) Fulani Militias Kill 32 Christians in Plateau Village, INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY (July 22, 2025).
- (11) Id.
- (12) Id.
- (13) Five Christians Slain in Attack Upon Nigerian Church, THE ALABAMA BAPTIST (July 27, 2025).
- (14) Id.
- (15) Ngala Killian Chintom, Three Seminarians Abducted in Nigeria, Guard Killed, CRUX (July 16, 2025).
- (16) Id.
- (17) Fulani Herdsmen Kill, Kidnap Christians in Kaduna State Nigeria, THE BAPTIST PAPER (July 14, 2025).
- (18) Ekani Olikita, After Yelewata: Terrorists Kill 50 Christians, 10 Constabulary, GENOCIDE WATCH.
- (19) Id.
- (20) New Attacks in Nigeria Leave 200+ Dead, OPEN DOORS (June 22, 2025).
- (21) Id.
- (22) Id.
- (23) 85 Christians Killed in Nigeria's Middle Belt in One Week, INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONCERN (June 2, 2025).
- (24) Id.
- (25) 8 Christians Killed, Farms Destroyed in Nigeria's Middle Belt, INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONCERN (May 21, 2025).
- (26) Id.
- (27) Id.
- (28) Six Christians Killed in Latest Attacks in Nigeria, INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONCERN (May 8, 2025).
- (29) Id.
- (30) Diana Chandler, Bloody April for Christians in Nigeria With Death Toll Surpassing 240, BAPTIST PRESS (Apr. 23, 2025).
- (31) Id.
- (32) Id.
- (33) Id.