

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



20 March 2014  
Check against delivery

**UN Human Rights Council  
Twenty-fifth session, 3 – 28 March 2014**

**Item 6:  
Consideration of UPR reports**

**NIGERIA**

Mr. President,

Since the start of 2014 there has been a sharp increase in attacks by gunmen, suspected of being Boko Haram members, resulting in over 700 deaths in north-eastern Nigeria. The attacks have led to the closure of schools and caused hundreds of thousands to flee their homes.<sup>1</sup>

In its response to Boko Haram, the government has also committed violations, including extrajudicial executions, deaths in custody, torture and enforced disappearances. In 2013 more than 1000 people died in military detention centres as a result of extrajudicial executions, torture or other ill treatment and thousands were unlawfully detained.

Amnesty International welcomes Nigeria's acceptance of recommendations to end and to provide accountability for these violations.<sup>2</sup> The government must ensure investigations, as a matter of priority, into all deaths in custody in north-eastern Nigeria,<sup>3</sup> and must also act on its commitment to allow the National Human Rights Commission immediate access to all detention facilities.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> 'Sahel Operation: Nigeria Crisis', UN High Commission for Refugees, February 2014. Available from [http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/NigeriaSituationOverview-Regional\\_February\\_2014.pdf](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/NigeriaSituationOverview-Regional_February_2014.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> A/HRC/25/6, paras 135.48, 135.50, 135.68 – 75, 135.121, 135.170 - 172 (Germany, Moldova, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA, Canada, Hungary, Czech Republic, Australia, France, Portugal, Republic of Korea).

<sup>3</sup> 'Nigeria: Authorities must investigate deaths of Boko Haram suspects in military custody', Amnesty International, 15 October 2013, AFR 44/025/2013.

<sup>4</sup> A/HRC/25/6, para 135.34 (Belgium). On ending abuses in detention, see also paras 135.106 – 112 (Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, France, Holy See, Palestine, United Kingdom).

Mr. President,

Since Nigeria's first review several state governments have forcibly evicted communities from their settlements, allegedly to make space for redevelopment projects. These communities are often among the most vulnerable in society and forced evictions not only violate their right to housing, but often lead to other deprivations: families being separated, children unable to attend school, and parents struggling to find work.

Amnesty International welcomes the government's acceptance of the recommendation to prevent forced evictions.<sup>5</sup> We urge the government to put in place legal protections and other safeguards against forced eviction, in accordance with the UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-based Evictions and Displacement and other relevant international human rights standards. These safeguards should include adequate prior consultation and notice on evictions, adequate alternative accommodation, and compensation and effective remedies.<sup>6</sup>

Mr. President,

On 6 January this year Nigeria signed into law the Same Sex Marriage (Prohibition) Act. The new law criminalises same sex relationships, socialising in the LGBTI community and the activities of many human rights and civil society organizations. It is discriminatory and violates the rights to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly. Moreover, the law could be used to harass, coerce or blackmail people by law enforcement officers or members of the public. We call on the government to repeal the law and to ensure that all Nigerians enjoy the human rights guaranteed by the Constitution.<sup>7</sup>

Lastly, Mr. President,

Amnesty International is gravely concerned by the execution of four death row prisoners on 24 June 2013, the first executions since 2006. Recent legislative changes increasing the number of offences which are punishable by death suggest that several states wrongly perceive the death penalty to deter crime. Amnesty International calls on the government to remove provisions in legislation requiring the mandatory imposition of the death penalty and to respect legal safeguards

---

<sup>5</sup> A/HRC/25/6, para 135.130 (Ecuador).

<sup>6</sup> A/HRC/25/6, para 137.32 (France).

<sup>7</sup> Nigeria rejected all 10 recommendations relating to discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity: A/HRC/25/6, paras 138.1 - 10 (Austria, Czech Republic, United States of America, Sweden, Canada, Australia, Argentina, France, Uruguay).

around the use of the death penalty. We call on Nigeria to establish a moratorium on executions, with a view to abolition of the death penalty.<sup>8</sup>

Thank you, Mr. President.

---

<sup>8</sup> A/HRC/25/6, paras 137.1 – 5, 137.10 – 25, 137.28 – 30 (Australia, Germany, Estonia, Montenegro, Brazil, Togo, Paraguay, Rwanda, Holy See, Portugal, Austria, Norway, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Switzerland, Turkey, Spain, France Italy Uruguay, Poland, Slovakia)

