



Oral Statement at the 40th Session of the Human Right Council

Item 6: UPR Outcomes - Nigeria 14 March, 2019

Delivered by: Mr Bernard Baa Gazire

Mr. President,

In 2017 at least 549 deaths and thousands of internal displacements occurred as a result of clashes between herdsmen and tribal groupings in Nigeria. These clashes were recorded across many states of Nigeria.

In February 2018, 20 people, including the Publicity Secretary and former Commissioner, Sam Zadok, were killed in an attack perpetrated by herdsmen in Gwamba village of Adamawa State.

On Sunday 3 March, 2019 similar violence razed Suwa and Burukutu villages in Adamawa State. On the same day about 16 people were killed in Gwer village of Benue state in similar violent attacks.

This suggests that the attacks are still ongoing.

Women and children have been severely affected by these acts of violence, which has led to an increased number of children living in extreme poverty. Among other dangerous consequences, poverty has made more children in Nigeria to live and/or work in the streets and has increased their vulnerability to trafficking.

Edmund Rice International supports the recommendations made by Ireland, Belgium, Netherlands, Slovakia, Argentina, New Zealand, and The Holy See, relating to the specific issues mentioned here and calls upon Nigeria to:

1. Adopt a comprehensive approach to the security situation in all parts of Nigeria, which ensures that the perpetrators of violence are brought to justice and that the security forces' rules of engagement take full account of due process and human rights.
2. Effectively domesticate and enforce the Child Rights Acts in all the 36 states of Nigeria along with anti-trafficking laws.
3. Allocate more resources to improve the quality of education in rural areas and adopt appropriate measures to strengthen educational opportunities for girls and women.

I thank you Mr President.