



51st Meeting of the UN Human Rights Council
Item 4: General debate on Human Rights situations that require the Council's attention - Nigeria
26 September 2022

Oral Statement delivered by: International Catholic Migration Commission

Mr./Ms. Chairperson,

The International Catholic Migration Commission and co-signatories, Caritas Internationalis, Caritas Nigeria, Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, VIDES, IIMA, New Humanity, World Evangelical Alliance, Edmund Rice International and the Conseil Général International de la Société de Saint-Vincent-de-Paul express grave concern for the human rights situation in Nigeria.

The global community can no longer stand as disinterested bystanders while Nigerians tragically lose their lives and property and are displaced by violence¹ in many areas of the country. The dimensions of this crisis have been reported by our member organizations and partners on the ground and by the international multilateral agencies, such as the Office of the UN Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.²

¹ Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, Country Profile Nigeria, <https://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/nigeria/#internal-displacement>

² <https://www.unocha.org/nigeria/about-ocha-nigeria>

As faith-based and other civil society organizations, we echo the recent appeal of the Catholic bishops of Nigeria, decrying "... the worsening state of insecurity in our nation as well as activities of terrorists and insurgents, kidnappers and bandits ... Attacks on travelers and worshippers in Churches and other places of worship have become too frequent ... we continue to call on civil authorities to stand up to their constitutional responsibility of safeguarding the lives and property of Nigerians ..."³

Thus, the International Catholic Migration Commission and other co-signatories call upon the government of Nigeria to address the root causes of violence and protect all people in the country. We also encourage the government of Nigeria to strengthen its collaboration with the OHCHR and the HRC's Special procedures, especially with the mandates on freedom of religion and belief, and on IDPs to effectively protect human rights and prevent further displacement and loss of lives.

³ <https://www.nigeriacatholicnetwork.com/communique-of-catholic-bishops-of-nigeria-orlu-2022/>