Justice & Accountability in Nigeria

A United Nations Human Rights Council parallel event calling for an impartial investigation into crimes committed by all sides in Nigeria

**Speaker**
- Ann Buwalda, Moderator (Executive Director, Jubilee Campaign)
- Hon. Baroness Caroline Cox (Member, United Kingdom House of Lords; Member, UK All-Party Parliamentary Group for International Freedom of Religion or Belief; Founder & CEO, Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust)
- Hon. Tristan Azbej (State Secretary, Aid of Persecuted Christians, State Secretary, Hungary Helps Program)
- Stephen Enada (Executive President, International Committee on Nigeria)
- Alheri Magaji (Co-Founder, Resilient Aid Dialogue Initiative)

**Key Messages**
- Within the past decade, tens of thousands of Nigerian civilians - including Christians and peaceful Muslims - have been targeted for slaughter by Islamist terrorist groups and militia, including Boko Haram, Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), Fulani militants, and Al Qaeda.
- The violence being committed in Nigeria has reached the standards of both crimes against humanity and genocide.
- The Nigerian government is complicit in these atrocities as it has taken no measurable steps to preemptively protect vulnerable communities nor prosecute perpetrators.
- Justice and accountability for perpetrators - while not able to restore the lives of victims - sends a clear message that such criminal violence will not go unpunished, and it paves the way for recovery and rehabilitation.
- Impunity continues for lack of investigations taking place.

**Objectives**

It is with great concern that the international community of human rights advocates receives weekly - if not daily - reports of violent attacks in Nigeria that leave thousands killed and wounded, including men, women, and children. These ongoing terrorist attacks perpetrated by Boko Haram and other violent jihadist militias are compounding the already-dire humanitarian situation.

We convened this parallel event to encourage states to pass a resolution to initiate a commission of inquiry to investigate the ongoing atrocities and crimes against humanity taking place in Nigeria - perpetrated by all sides of the conflict - and start necessary evidence collection. We also hope to move this discussion about the situation of Nigeria to measurable actions.

**Recommendations**
- There needs to be a global push for an independent, impartial commission of inquiry to investigate atrocities and crimes against humanity in Nigeria. A commission of inquiry would be the first step in recognizing genocidal violence, providing reparations for victims, punishing perpetrators, and kickstarting peacebuilding and reconciliation.
- We should support the work of NGOs and relief organizations on the ground in Nigeria who - in light of the failure of the government to respond to the crisis - provide displaced civilians and survivors with shelter, clothing, food, and medical care.
- We must support the civilians and journalists who are conducting comprehensive evidence-gathering and first-hand reporting on the atrocities, and we must circulate their data to the international community.