

Jubilee Campaign Responds Directly: To the Nigerian and Algerian Governments

Jubilee Campaign wishes a very happy holiday season to you and your family, and we hope that you will find a way to celebrate safely with your loved ones.

In the week leading up to Christmas, we will be updating you on Jubilee Campaign's biggest projects of 2021 and the various successes we made in the realm of international religious freedom. For the first time in over a year, we were able to meet with our colleagues in person at the inaugural IRF Summit in Washington, D.C., where we planned future advocacy initiatives, held an event, and made new friends and partners. We are fully prepared and excited to bring our advocacy plans to fruition in 2022!

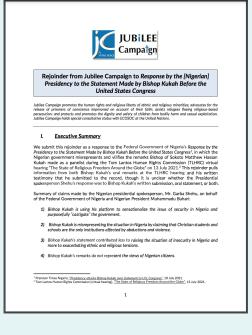
Rejoinder to the Nigerian Government

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In July 2021, renowned Nigerian Bishop of Sokoto, Matthew Hassan Kukah, spoke at a virtual event " The State of Religious Freedom Around the Globe" hosted by the United States Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission (TLHRC). Bishop Kukah eloquently shared his personal thoughts about the humanitarian situation in Nigeria, notably the mass abductions of young schoolchildren, the midnight killings of Christians and peaceful Muslims by radical bandits, the unequal skew by which Muslims occupy more governmental

positions than Christians, and more. The Nigerian government, in response, castigated Bishop Kukah and misrepresented his remarks, stating that he sought to inflame ethnic tensions, exaggerate Nigeria's social problems, and claim that Christians were the sole victims of religious extremism and criminal activity. Jubilee Campaign submitted a rejoinder to the Nigerian presidential spokesperson in which we corrected the false accusations against Bishop Kukah, requested a retraction of the government's defamatory remarks, and urged the Nigerian government to take measurable steps to eradicate mass kidnappings; increase security in locations vulnerable to terror activities such as churches, Christian communities, and moderate Muslim communities; and ensure equitable representation in government roles.



Click on the above graphic to view in a separate browser

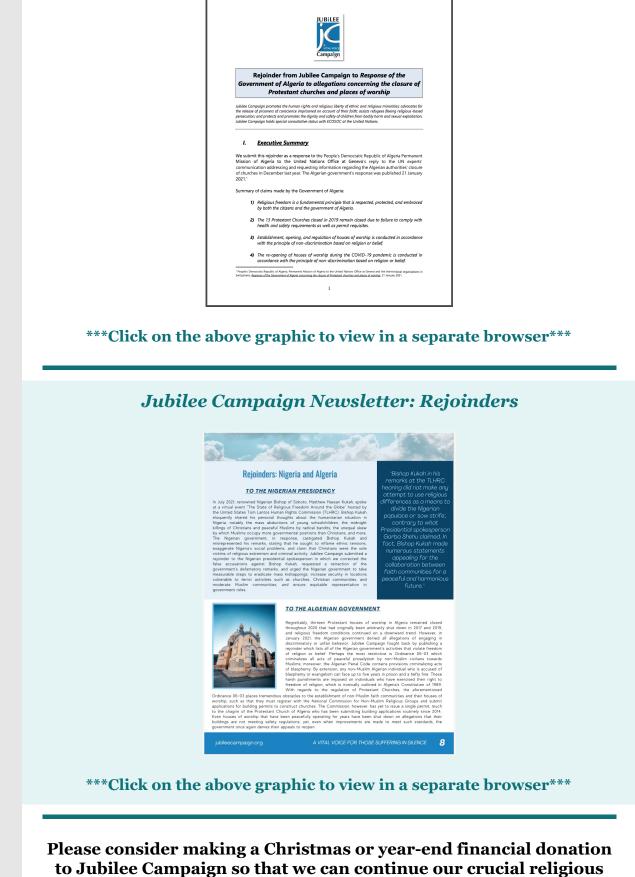
Rejoinder to the Algerian Government

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Regrettably, thirteen Protestant houses of worship in Algeria remained closed throughout 2020 that had originally been arbitrarily shut down in 2017 and 2019, and religious freedom conditions continued on a downward trend. However, in January 2021, the Algerian government denied all allegations of engaging in discriminatory or unfair behavior. Jubilee Campaign fought back by publishing a rejoinder which lists all of the Algerian government's activities that violate freedom of religion or



belief. Perhaps the most restrictive is Ordinance o6-03 which criminalizes all acts of peaceful proselytism by non-Muslim civilians towards Muslims; moreover, the Algerian Penal Code contains provisions criminalizing acts of blasphemy. By extension, any non-Muslim Algerian individual who is accused of blasphemy or evangelism can face up to five years in prison and a hefty fine. These harsh punishments are imposed on individuals who have exercised their right to freedom of religion, which is ironically outlined in Algeria's Constitution of 1989. With regards to the regulation of Protestant Churches, the aforementioned Ordinance 06-03 places tremendous obstacles Ordinance to the establishment of non-Muslim faith communities and their houses of worship, such as that they must register with the National Commission for Non-Muslim Religious Groups and submit applications for building permits to construct churches. The Commission, however, has yet to issue a single permit, much to the chagrin of the Protestant Church of Algeria who has been submitting building applications routinely since 2014. Even houses of worship that have been peacefully operating for years have been shut down on allegations that their buildings are not meeting safety regulations; yet, even when improvements are made to meet such standards, the government once again denies their appeals to reopen.



freedom and human rights advocacy in 2022!



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