



General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 February 2017

English only

Human Rights Council

Thirty-fourth session

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by the Agence pour les droits de l'homme, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[04 February 2017]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.17-02167(E)



* 1 7 0 2 1 6 7 *

Please recycle



Violation of IMN Women and Children's rights by Nigerian Government

Nigerian armed forces have long had a poor human rights record. On repeated occasions in recent years, they have perpetrated widespread and serious violations, some constituting war crimes, including one particularly egregious incident in which members of the Nigerian military unlawfully killed more than 350 men, women and children supporters of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria (IMN), a Shia Muslims minority group.

The killings took place in Zaria, 270km north of the capital Abuja, between 12 and 14 December 2015.

The exact number of those killed is not known but it is believed to be higher than that admitted thus far, as hundreds IMN protesters reported missing since the incident remain unaccounted for and are feared to have been killed.

- Herein comes some remarks:
 - 1967-70 then Capt. Buhari (current Nigerian President) was alleged to have massacred Biafra women and children and got away with it.
 - There are several evidence on how the bloodthirsty Nigerian military molested women and killed their children before their eyes.
 - An example: at around 4pm 12 Dec 2015, men and women were crying and mourning for the murder of their loved ones, then comes another attack. This time around, it was hundreds of mainly women and children standing helpless. The Army heavier armed than before appeared again, this time around including tanks, grenades, Rocket Propelled Grenades Launchers and other explosives. They sieged the building of Hussainiyyah Baqiyyatullah and kept waiting for command until night, they started invading the building by using everything at their disposal. They were shooting so barbaric, women were howling and bowling out of fear. Women of IMN were exposed to seeing their love ones die one after the other with no help from anyone. Women at Hussainiyyah Baqiyyatullah lived in fear and expectation of gun shot or explosion on them. Many of them were killed by gun shots and grenade explosion. I don't want to remember seeing them going down one after the other, Fatima M. Lawan was shot on her forehead by the Army. What causes me the most to endure tribulation is that Fatima did not die instantly, she suffered a lot before dying and there was nothing we could do, in fact, nobody can tell whether Fatima is alive or not, because up to the time of Hussainiyyah Baqiyyatullah invasion, she was alive. Before dawn, some of the females were able to cross to a neighboring house in order to seek for refuge, but when the Army successfully invaded Hussainiyyah Baqiyyatullah, they went ahead to cross into those houses and only God knows what happened there, they killed as much as they could and arrested many of them with various degrees of gunshot injuries.

-
- After arresting them, they beat them severely, most of them were losing blood but the Army continued beating them. The worst of all is that the Army removed their Hijab, tightened them and pulled them on ground before taking them to the Army barracks.
 - On the other hand, the attack was extended to Gyallesu, were the leader of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria reside and that is where the worst of all took place. In Gyallesu, after killing as much as they could, they burnt women and children to death. They raped many women, shot them in their private parts and watch them dying one after the other. They set fire on women and children and watched them burning to death. One of the victims from Gyallesu was shot in her private part and God in his infinite mercy, delivered her to tell her story and experience about the massacre, she is just 13 but her life was ruined.
 - There are some reports via interview from which following eye witnesses' testimonies are extracted:
 - 17 years old. At hussainiyah baqiyatullah on the 12th. Only two of our girls remained hiding behind an ambulance bus in a corner. Soldiers shot them at close range after seeing them. I was shot on leg. Our hijab was removed ND naked pulled into a tractor full of death bodies. Reached Mutiara hospital. Some soldiers asked that they be killed. But other soldier refused and said it is not possible to shoot in the hospital. They passed us over to the hospital. At hospital we were taken care of and it was then I realized that I was shot on my breast abdomen near the private part and my leg. It's in the hospital for four months and at home on bed for another four months. All the wounds have healed except my broken leg.
 - 23 years old. Was shot on leg 12th night around Sayyid Zakzaky residence. On 13 in front of house shot on hand and got broken. Was taken to a near-by house where the injured are kept. Later after the soldiers have killed all around the residence of Sayyid Zakzaky they came to the house where we were gathered all injured. They set the house in fire. They also shot people the injured directly. They used knives at the end of their guns to stick it in the injured and burnt.
 - 13 years old. At hussainiyah baqiyatullah was shot on the leg on the 12th. The same army personnel that shot her came to her and said bad words to her and then shot her directly on her private part and scattered it. At the hospital she was not able to urinate and faced a lot of difficulties. She is now released from hospital and at home.

At the end, following the violations of International Law committed by the military in Zaria and arbitrary detention and ill-treatment undermining the right to fair trial, we demand and recommend the following:

- To the International Community and Human Rights Organizations: Investigate the issue and use all available channels to intercede with the Nigerian government and ensure that transfers of equipment, knowledge and training for military, security or police do not contribute to human rights violations, such as the extrajudicial executions and other unlawful killings committed in Zaria.

- To the media: The media silence in the face of these heinous and inhumane crimes is strongly condemned and ensure that the truth be told and make its efforts to issue public statements expressing concern over repeated reports of serious allegations of violations committed by the Nigerian military, including during the December incidents in Zaria.
 - To the United Nations: Investigate the issue seriously and ensure that the necessary steps are taken towards the implementation of its obligation to pursue truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, including those committed by the Nigerian military in Zaria.
-