

The President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500



January 30, 2020

Mr. President,

Today, Christian Solidarity International (CSI) has issued a Genocide Warning for Nigeria, and is calling on the Permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council to take appropriate preventative action in Africa's largest country.

CSI issued this Genocide Warning in response to a rising tide of violence directed against Nigerian Christians, moderate Muslims and others classified as "infidels" by Islamist militants, especially in the country's north and middle belt regions.

1,000 Christians in Nigeria are reported to have been killed by Islamist militias over the past year, with 6,000 murdered since 2015, according to the most conservative estimates from Nigerian Christian sources.

Earlier this month, Dr Samson Ayonkule, the President of the Christian Association of Nigeria, declared: "Christians have become an endangered species in their own country. "Nigeria is under a siege orchestrated by the murderous bloodthirsty and criminally-minded Boko Haram terrorists, Fulani terrorist herdsman, bandits and kidnappers." Ayonkule called the Nigerian government to account for its inaction in the face of the escalating conflict and the culture of impunity in Nigeria.

Cause for grave concern has also been raised by the International Criminal Court's Office of the Prosecutor. In a report published at the end of 2019, the Office of the Prosecutor warned that there is "reasonable basis" to believe that war crimes and crimes against humanity have taken place in Nigeria. The ICC report stated that not only Boko Haram and its Islamist offshoots are under investigation, but also the Nigerian Security Forces (NSF). According to the ICC, the investigation of NSF includes acts of violence against persons associated with the Shiite "Islamic Movement of Nigeria" and the predominately-Christian Indigenous People of Biafra.

Conditions for genocide do indeed exist in Nigeria, with Christians, non-violent Muslims, and adherents of tribal religions being particularly vulnerable. The increasingly violent attacks and the failure of the Nigerian government to prevent them and punish the perpetrators are alarming.

It was for reasons such as these that you rightly reminded Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari on the 30th of April 2018 about the grim plight of the country's Christians, and announced that the United States cannot allow them to be targeted. Yet anti-Christian violence continues to intensify and spread.

The United States, together with all other Permanent Members of the UN Security Council, is a signatory to the Genocide Convention of 1948, and has committed to 'undertake to prevent' genocide, a commitment that was reaffirmed in the 2005 declaration of the Responsibility to Protect. CSI therefore calls on the Permanent Members of the UN Security Council to take swift and decisive collective action to uphold this commitment to prevent genocide in Nigeria.

Most Respectfully,

Dr. John Eibner
President, CSI-USA