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

Written statement* submitted by Jubilee Campaign, 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.

[28 May 2021]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons – Nigeria Must Ensure Equitable Assistance to IDPs in Southern Kaduna

Jubilee Campaign would like to raise to the Council's attention the insecurity of the tens of thousands of internally displaced persons in Southern Kaduna state, Nigeria and an estimated 2.9 million displaced throughout the whole country.

Jubilee Campaign conducted multiple virtual meetings with Alheri Magaji of Resilient Aid and Dialogue Initiative (RADi Foundation), an IDP assistance organization that operates primarily in Southern Kaduna, which they find to be one of the most neglected areas of humanitarian intervention. Though militant attacks in the area can be traced back to as early as 2003, the situation has been at its peak of devastation since February 2019; communities in the local government areas (LGAs) of Kajuru, Zangon Kataf, and Birnin Gwari have been ambushed tens of times, leading thousands of survivors to flee their communities and become IDPs scattered throughout Southern Kaduna.

RADi has stressed that Nigeria's State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) had only visited Southern Kaduna once in 2020. These agencies receive information from local government chairmen, who have been denying the existence of IDPs in their LGAs; in fact, some chairmen have sent people to disperse the IDP camps so that there appears to be no visible problem and have falsely accused NGOs of blowing the situation out of proportion for profit. On the occasions that SEMA or NEMA send food and resources to the LGAs, local government officials do not distribute them equitably.

Southern Kaduna IDP Situation

Throughout their work, RADi has discovered that Nigerian IDPs live in a constant state of precarity; they are not recognized by the government, and the camps that they are relegated to lack the resources necessary to sustain life. Upon visiting the IDP camps in Southern Kaduna, RADi asks civilians to gather at 2:00 p.m. so that they may distribute necessities such as food and toiletries. At the same time, RADi workers collect information on individual cases of displacement, such as medical bills and personal contacts of civilians remaining in abandoned and unsafe villages. RADi has met with numerous IDPs who had not eaten in a week and had not been able to bathe themselves for extended periods of time.

Reporting on the conditions of life within Southern Kaduna IDP camps, Magaji explained that while some small houses are available for families to rent – at prices which many cannot afford due to lack of work and income – many have resigned themselves to sleeping on the bare ground. The few IDPs that are able to find jobs in construction have to work from the early morning until late at night in order to make money to afford renting a house or room in the IDP camps. The majority of IDPs in Southern Kaduna were previously farmers that grew and sell grain, which is quite profitable; however, at the time of their displacement, they had to abandon their often-destroyed croplands and thus their income. The children living in IDP camps are similarly in a vulnerable position. They have absolutely no access to education or healthcare; as such, they cannot attend school and many are suffering from poor health and hygiene.

Magaji reports that the IDP camps that RADi has visited to conduct assistance have no proper security measures. Camps can often fall victim to attacks by militants, so vigilante groups within the camps work on a rotating schedule to monitor the perimeters and report on the situation. Neither military nor police are present to bring stability and protection to these vulnerable IDP camps; in the cases that there are attacks on camps, their response is so slow that they often do not make it to the scene until after the attack has occurred and the damage has been done. Similarly, they are quick to leave the area, only staying to monitor the camp for a few hours before leaving IDPs to their own devices once again.

Noteworthy Cases

Magaji reported recently being contacted by a 20-year-old woman who was shot while returning to the IDP camp after visiting her home and farm to get supplies. The woman was walking in between her husband and her mother-in-law when Fulani militants nearby shot her a total of eight times. The attack happened in broad daylight; one of the bullets ricocheted and destroyed her genitalia, but hospitals are unable to take her in and neither she nor her family has the funds to pay for her necessary operation.

In April 2021, RADi met with 37-year-old mother of six children, Talatu Dabo, who is currently residing in Kajuru LGA. Her home was attacked a year prior in May 2020, and she ran away with her five young children while she herself was pregnant with her sixth child. For a short time after Ms. Talatu and her family fled, they stayed in another family's home, but that home too fell under attack, forcing them to relocate again. Now, she is staying in a person's kitchen, but the grass roof is unable to protect her and her young children from the rain and other inclement weather; the kitchen owner has informed Ms. Talatu that she and her family can no longer stay there, but she has nowhere left to turn. Ms. Talatu was forced to give birth to her sixth child alone in a hospital in Ungwan Boro, and she currently owes a debt of N35,000 (≈ 92 \$USD) to the hospital for her caesarean section and another surgery that her infant child needed. Another one of her six children has symptoms of nephrotic syndrome, a kidney disorder that causes excessive protein in the urine, a bloated and uncomfortable abdomen, and swelling around the eyes.¹

RADi met with another mother of five, Ms. Jaummai Danladi. On 10 March 2019 in Ungwan Barde, Katsina state, Ms. Danladi and her children were preparing to leave their home to go to church when they heard yelling and chaos coming from outside their home. Ms. Danladi decided to try to escape to safety with her children; however, they had run into an ambush of Fulani militants. The assailants pushed Ms. Danladi to the ground and began slashing her with machetes; she was forced to watch while the militants slaughtered four of her children; one of her sons was able to avoid being killed by the militants who could not see him laying between his siblings' bodies. Ms. Danladi she reported that the attackers were deliberating amongst themselves whether they wanted to cut her womb open to remove the baby, but eventually decided against it. Instead, they beat her stomach with sticks and quickly abandoned her. When Ms. Danladi was found still alive, she was transported to St. Gerard's hospital and was informed that she had lost her baby.²

On 4 March 2019, while at her home in Dogon Noma, Kajuru LGA, Kaduna state, mother of four, Veronica John woke up in the night to the sound of gunfire in her neighborhood. She escaped her village with a group of community members; they heard a voice speaking Adara telling them to head in a specific direction towards safety, however, the individual speaking was a Fulani militant who led them into an ambush. Ms. John asked her daughter to plead with the assailants to spare their lives, but the Fulani militants struck the young girl's head with a machete, killing her, before slicing off two of Ms. John's fingers. Ms. John fell unconscious and awoke to the sight of her fingers stuffed in her dead daughter's mouth. She survived the attack and is currently in need of medical attention, as she unable to move the right side of her upper body due to her injuries, and the remaining fingers on her hand are painfully sensitive to light touches.³

Recommendations

Jubilee Campaign urges members and observer states of the Human Rights Council to call upon the Federal Republic of Nigeria to:

¹ Talatu Dabo, Resilient Aid and Dialogue Initiative (RADi), 10 April 2021.

² Jummai Danladi, RADi.

³ Veronica John, RADi.

1. Offer immediate and sufficient aid and assistance to IDPs located in Southern Kaduna and throughout Nigeria. Ensure that materials are distributed equitably to those in need.
2. Reestablish security in the region in order to allow a safe return of IDPs to their home communities, as encampments are only a temporary and unsustainable solution.
3. Take measures to counteract and preemptively prevent militant attacks that cause indiscriminate killings and mass displacement.

Jubilee Campaign urges members and observer states of the Human Rights Council to:

1. Work to establish a credible and effective mechanism for accountability for the grave crimes being committed in Nigeria that is able to:
 - Collect, analyze, and preserve evidence for future prosecutions of perpetrators.
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