

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

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## **"We did not apologise": Amnesty International stands by its findings**

Amnesty International would like to respond to press reports concerning comments made by Nigeria's Foreign Affairs Minister Ambassador Olugbenga Ashiru alleging that Amnesty International has apologised for factual errors in its 2012 report about human rights violations committed by the Nigerian security forces.

Amnesty International is deeply disappointed by the Minister's comments, the government should be demonstrating its commitment to human rights by investigating credible and serious allegations of human rights violations by its security forces.

Amnesty International stands by the findings of its report 'Trapped in the Cycle of Violence' launched in November 2012.

Amnesty International has never – publicly nor privately – apologised for any of the contents of the report and stands by its research, conclusion and recommendations 100 per cent.

In a meeting with the Attorney General in Abuja earlier this month, Amnesty International reiterated its concerns about grave human rights violations committed by the Nigerian security forces and received assurances from government that it was conducting investigations.

Amnesty International had already issued a statement responding to government criticisms of the report at the time of launch which can be seen here:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/AFR44/048/2012/en/5cc8f4c4-a925-4690-a57e-1d68585a97db/afr440482012en.html>

Amnesty International has been exploring the opportunity to establish an office in Nigeria for a number of years based on the desire to increase the impact and reach of its work in Nigeria and work more closely with members, supporters and activists in the country. This work is on-going and though Amnesty International has indicated to the authorities that this is its intention, no formal approaches have been made at this time.