



30 September 2015
AI Index: AFR 44/2570/2015

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

**UN Human Rights Council
Thirtieth session
14 September – 2 October 2015**

Item 2: Annual report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General

Item 10: Technical assistance and capacity-building

Presentation of reports of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Secretary-General followed by general debate

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes the report of the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights on Boko Haram.¹

This statement draws on Amnesty International's written statement to this Council session about human rights abuses and violations against civilians by Boko Haram and security forces in Nigeria and Cameroon.²

The conflict between the armed group Boko Haram and government security forces of Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger and Chad has devastated the lives of hundreds of thousands of civilians. Despite recent advances by Nigerian and regional armed forces, Boko Haram fighters continue to deliberately target civilians, while its leaders evade justice. At the same time, the response from government security forces, particularly in northern Cameroon and north-east Nigeria has been marred by serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

Despite recent commitments by President Buhari, Nigeria has not yet taken adequate steps to thoroughly and independently investigate crimes under international law and other serious human rights violations by its forces. Similarly, serious incidents of human rights violations and possible crimes under international law have not been investigated effectively in Cameroon.

We agree with the High Commissioner for Human Rights that prompt, thorough and independent investigation must be undertaken and all those responsible be brought to justice.

In light of the ongoing crimes under international law by the parties to the conflict and the absence of justice for victims and their families, Amnesty International urges this Council to renew its request for the High Commissioner to report regularly to it on human rights abuses and violations committed in countries where Boko Haram operates. Given the challenges in the preparation of the report described by the High Commissioner, we urge the Council to ensure that requests for future reports call for OHCHR to receive the support necessary to fulfill those requests effectively.

¹ Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on violations and abuses committed by Boko Haram and the impact on human rights in the affected countries, A/HRC/30/67, 29 September 2015.

² *Civilians continue to be at risk of human rights abuses by Boko Haram and human rights violations by State security forces*, available at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr44/2428/2015/en/>

We also urge this Council to call on the Governments of States affected by Boko Haram and those in a position to assist them to implement the recommendations made to them by the High Commissioner.

Thank you Mr. President.