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UN Human Rights Council  
Twenty-third Special Session

In light of the terrorist attacks and human rights abuses and violations committed by the terrorist group Boko Haram

Mr. President,

The Amnesty International delegation joins others in expressing its deepest condolences to the family and friends of Ambassador Yusuf Mohamed Ismail “Bari Bari” and to the people of Somalia.

The situation in Nigeria demonstrates a cycle of violence in which human rights abuses and violations by the armed group known as Boko Haram and the Nigerian security forces all too often feed further violations and abuses. That cycle must be broken.<sup>1</sup>

Since 2009, when Boko Haram launched a violent campaign against the Nigerian state and its civilian population, Amnesty International has gathered evidence that raises the reasonable belief that Boko Haram and the Nigerian military have committed crimes under international law in the context of their conflict.

The conflict has escalated significantly in the last 12 months as Boko Haram has conducted almost daily attacks in north-east Nigeria. The evidence collected by Amnesty International indicates that the crimes under international law committed by Boko Haram include war crimes and crimes against humanity. Boko Haram should be held accountable for: killings of

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<sup>1</sup> This intervention draws on Amnesty International’s written statement to the twenty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council, *Nigeria: Boko Haram and Nigerian military committing crimes under international law in north east Nigeria*, A/HRC/28/NGO/161 of 27 February 2015, AI Index: AFR 44/1033/2015, 20 February 2015, at: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr44/1033/2015/en/> [Last accessed 31 March 2015.]

civilians; imprisonment and abductions; forced marriage, rape and sexual slavery; recruitment and use of child soldiers; and pillage and targeting civilian objects.

In their response to Boko Haram, the Nigerian armed forces, often relying on assistance from the Civilian Joint Task Force, have committed serious human rights violations and may also have committed crimes under international law, including war crimes and crimes against humanity. Amnesty International is concerned by: deaths in custody; extrajudicial executions; torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment; arbitrary arrests; and unlawful detention.

The Government of Nigeria must take prompt and effective steps to investigate and hold accountable perpetrators of serious crimes on all sides, including Boko Haram, Nigerian military forces and the Civilian Joint Task Force.

Amnesty International urges the Human Rights Council and its members and observer states to remain seized of the situation.

Thank you Mr. President.