

NIGERIAN AUTHORITIES FAIL TO INVESTIGATE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN HERDERS & FARMERS CONFLICT

In its recent report, “Harvest of Death: Three Years of Bloody Clashes Between Farmers and Herders”, Amnesty International found that the Nigerian authorities’ failure to investigate communal clashes and bring perpetrators to justice has fuelled a bloody escalation in the conflict between farmers and herders across the country, resulting in at least 3,641 deaths in the past three years and the displacement of thousands more.

Security forces have often been positioned close to the attacks, which lasted hours and sometimes days, yet were slow to act. In some cases, security forces had prior warning of an imminent raid but did nothing to stop or prevent the killings, looting and burning of homes.

Villagers in all the areas visited by Amnesty International described losing everything as their homes were burned and their food supplies carted away by attackers. Since 2016, both sides in the conflict have increasingly sought to destroy each other’s livelihood with herders setting fire to farms and farmers engaging in cattle rustling.

In the light of the findings of the report, we ask the Federal Government, the security forces and the state governments

- Investigate all allegations of willful negligence, complicity and other failures of security forces to protect civilians and make the findings of the investigations public
- Ensure the prosecution of any person, including members of security forces, who perpetrated abuses and/or willfully ignored attacks.
- Ensure that members of both farmer and herder communities enjoy their human rights, including rights to land, water, and pasture, which are at the heart of the crisis
- Ensure that areas designated as grazing reserves, corridors and cattle routes are not encroached upon.
- Ensure that herders do not graze on farmlands and any herder that allows his cattle to graze on and destroy farmlands is promptly arrested, investigated and prosecuted
- Ensure that community leaders who encourage members of their communities to perpetrate violence are thoroughly, independently and impartially investigated and prosecuted if found guilty

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All addresses will only be used within the meaning of this petition and will not be passed on to a third party. Please send completed lists until the 30.09.2019 to Lisa Noeth, Soldiner StraÙe 75, 13359 Berlin.

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