



CHURCH IN CHAINS

AN IRISH VOICE FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

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Dr Uzoma Emenike
Ambassador
Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
56 Leeson Park
DUBLIN 6

3 July 2018

Your Excellency,

It was a pleasure to meet you last year at the Department of Foreign Affairs on the occasion of the launch of Ireland's "*Business and Human Rights*" document.

I am writing to you now to express the horror of Irish Christians at the recent attacks on predominantly Christian areas near Jos in Plateau state. According to reports reaching us, over 200 people were killed in these attacks by Fulani herdsmen.

While such attacks on Christian communities in the Middle Belt region are sadly common, the scale of the recent attacks and their proximity to Jos, the state capital, has raised concerns that the situation has spiralled totally out of control.

I have been contacted about this issue by Rev Soja Bewarang, Chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) in Plateau State (Rev Soja travelled to Ireland in 2016 to speak at Church in Chains' annual conference). In a statement issued last week on behalf of CAN and church denominational heads in Plateau State, Rev Soja wrote, "*What is happening in Plateau state and other select states in Nigeria is pure genocide and must be stopped immediately... We are particularly worried at the widespread insecurity in the country where wanton attacks and killings by armed Fulani herdsmen, bandits and terrorists have been taking place on a daily basis in our communities unchallenged despite huge investments in the security agencies. The perpetrators are being deliberately allowed to go scot free.*" I have enclosed a copy of Rev Soja's statement.

I ask that you advise your government of the deep concern of Irish Christians at this ethnic and religious cleansing being perpetrated in the Middle Belt region and our call for the Nigerian authorities (at both state and national level) to take immediate effective action to protect the Christian community and to bring the perpetrators of this violence to justice.

Yours respectfully,

David Turner
(Director)