



World Evangelical Alliance

Human Rights Council - 43rd Session

Item 3: General Debate

6 March 2020

Speaker: Gloria Leccese

Thank you Madam President,

The World Evangelical Alliance would like to draw your attention to the dire situation in **Burkina Faso**.

Since 2016, the country has experienced an alarming escalation of violence from Jihadist militants, resulting in attacks to the civilian population. Over 250 civilians were killed in summary executions in 2019 alone.

This violence and instability has particularly affected the Christian community, which is deliberately targeted. For example, on February 16, 2020, militants attacked and set fire to a protestant church in the north east of the country, killing 24 and injuring at least 18.

Violence and insecurity is heavily contributing to further destabilization in the Sahel region. The Burkinabe Government, despite its efforts, lost control of significant portions of the territory, leaving space to militants to operate freely between borders. Burkina Faso currently has the world's fastest growing displacement crisis that, so far, has seen over 760.000 people displaced, and numbers continue growing.

We call on the international community to promptly work with the Burkinabe government to tackle the situation by supporting with expertise and capacity the G5 Sahel Joint Force in combating jihadist militancy, and to urgently provide support and aid in IDP camps.

We on call the Government of Burkina Faso to exert close oversight on its Security Forces and ensure that any operation deployed will be compliant with international human rights standards.

Thank you.