



## **Oral Statement**

Human Rights Council 61<sup>st</sup> Session

Item 4: General debate on human rights situations that require the Council's attention

17 March 2026

Delivered by James Akinyele

Mr. President,

The World Evangelical Alliance draws the Council's urgent attention to growing insecurity in Nigeria, driven by religious and ethnically motivated violence, resulting in an internal displacement crisis.

Our churches report repeated attacks on Christian villages, churches, and faith leaders, as well as the forced abandonment of Christian farming communities under threat from armed Fulani herders. These are part of a continuing pattern of violence, which disproportionately affects Christians, but not only.

Schools have also been attacked, and hundreds of children abducted, placing their safety, education, and futures at grave risk.

While acknowledging the most recent effort being made by the government to respond, we call on Nigeria to take effective, immediate and more proactive measures to prevent further attacks, to ensure protection for vulnerable communities, to provide adequate assistance to internally displaced persons, and to guarantee the safety of children in school.

Thousands of people have signed a petition urging the international community to provide robust protection from violent militant attacks, ensure justice through fair prosecutions of the attackers, and to bring healing and restoration to all affected communities across the Sahel.

Thank you.