



General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 June 2026

English only

Human Rights Council

Sixty-second session

15 June–10 July 2026

Agenda item 2

**Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the
High Commissioner and the Secretary-General**

Written statement submitted by World Evangelical Alliance, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status*

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[19 May 2026]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Human Rights Violations in India and Nigeria

Ongoing Violence Leading to Violations of Human Rights

The World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) wishes to bring to the attention of the Human Rights Council in the context of the High Commissioner for Human Rights' annual report two situations of ongoing conflict within states that is resulting in serious violations of human rights. These two situations are violence in the Manipur region of India and violence in the Middle Belt region of Nigeria. Both are resulting in violations of the right to life; the right to protection by the law against arbitrary interference and attacks; the right to property; freedom of religion or belief; the right to work; the right to an adequate standard of living; and the right to education.

Deadly Violence in Manipur, India

The WEA draws the attention of the High Commissioner and the Human Rights Council to continuing violence in Manipur, which is having a profound impact on religious communities across the region. Communities already under severe strain continue to endure displacement, insecurity, division, and fear.

On 13 May 2026, church leaders affiliated with the Thadou Baptist Association India (TBAI) in Manipur's Kangpokpi district were reportedly ambushed and summarily executed while returning from a United Baptist Convention gathering in Churachandpur and travelling toward Kangpokpi.

Our national member, the Evangelical Fellowship of India, has received credible confirmation of the deaths of Rev. Dr. Vumthang Sitlhou, Pastor Kaigoulun Lhouvum, and Pastor Paogoulou Sitlhou. Several others were reportedly injured, including Rev. SM Haopu Sitlhou, Rev. Kaithang Singsit, Mr. Thangtinlen Sitlhou, and Mr. Lungoumang Lhouvum (1).

On-going Ethno-religious Conflict in Manipur

This recent killing occurred within Manipur's wider climate of armed insecurity, unresolved inter-community tensions, and continuing displacement following the violence that erupted in May 2023. Hundreds have been killed, thousands displaced and many religious structures have been vandalised. Tensions and violence involving Kuki and Tangkhul communities in the Ukhrul and Kamjong districts of Manipur continue to escalate, resulting in the loss of civilian lives, the destruction of homes and property, and increasing fear and trauma among affected communities (2).

Targeted Violence against Christians in India in 2025

The EFI's Religious Liberty Commission, in its latest yearly report on hate and targeted violence against Christians in India, documented 747 verified incidents of hostility, intimidation, violence, and discrimination against Christians across India in 2025, drawn from more than 915 reported cases (3). These included threats and harassment, physical violence, disruption of worship services, arrests and criminal complaints linked to allegations of religious conversion, social coercion, vandalism, and attacks on church property. The report notes that many incidents remain unreported due to fear of retaliation, social pressure, or lack of access to legal remedies.

Recommendation to the Government of India

In this context, the WEA makes the following recommendation to the Government of India:

- Ensure urgent medical care for the injured;
- Ensure protection for affected communities;

- Undertake a thorough, impartial investigation so that those responsible are brought to justice; and
- Find long-term solutions to ethno-religious tensions through dialogue and peaceful negotiation.

Deadly Violence in the Middle Belt Region, Nigeria

The WEA remains deeply concerned by the continuing violence in Nigeria, particularly in the Middle Belt region. Deadly attacks persist, especially against Christian communities. Armed Fulani herders have displaced farmers from their villages, and entire communities remain uprooted after the seizure of their land. Many are now internally displaced and living in informal camps, where they face severe hardship. Unable to cultivate their farms, affected families experience growing food insecurity, while children are denied access to education.

On 8-9 May 2026, the village of Ngbra Zongo in Plateau State, was attacked for the fourth and fifth times. At least 19 Christians were reportedly killed, and many residents fled to neighbouring villages in search of safety. They face the loss of their homes and land and the inability to grow food. In addition, their children cannot attend school.

On-going Conflict in the Middle Belt

Violence in the Middle Belt region of Nigeria has intensified over the past two decades. Historically, disputes over land, grazing routes, and water resources were often managed through local mediation mechanisms. However, since the early 2000s, and particularly from around 2010 onward, these tensions have become increasingly violent and militarised.

A combination of factors has contributed to the escalation of the conflict. Climate change, desertification, and environmental degradation in northern Nigeria and the wider Sahel region have pushed many pastoralist communities southward in search of grazing land and water. At the same time, population growth and expanding agricultural activity have increased pressure on already limited land resources in the Middle Belt. Competition over land use has therefore become more acute.

The violence has also been exacerbated by the proliferation of small arms, weak law enforcement, impunity for attacks, and the growing presence of criminal and insurgent groups operating across the wider Sahel region. In some areas, attacks have increasingly taken on an ethno-religious dimension, particularly where predominantly Christian farming communities and predominantly Muslim Fulani herding communities are involved. Christian communities appear to have been targeted. Fulani militia have threatened Christians because of their faith.

The consequences for civilians have been severe. Thousands of people have been killed, villages destroyed, and large numbers displaced from their homes and farmland. It is estimated that there are approximately 3.71 million IDPs in Nigeria (4) with the majority in the North. It is estimated that 600,000 IDPs are in the Middle Belt region.

Recommendation to the Government of Nigeria

In this context, the WEA makes the following recommendation to the Government of Nigeria:

- Address the chronic shortage of personnel and resources within the police and armed forces. Strengthening the capacity of these institutions is essential to ensure timely responses, particularly in remote rural areas where attacks remain frequent;
- Provide the necessities of life to IDP communities, including food, water, sanitation and education; and
- Support the safety, return, and reintegration of those who have been forced from their land.

Recommendation to the High Commissioner for Human Rights

- The WEA is grateful that the High Commissioner has mentioned the Manipur conflict in past reports at the 54th and 58th sessions of the Human Rights Council, and that he has urged the Indian government to de-escalate tensions through dialogue and human rights. The WEA respectfully asks the High Commissioner to continue to take note of the on-going conflict in Manipur, India, and to swiftly address with the government of India the region's ethno-religious hostilities and ensure safety and protection of all minority/tribal communities.
- The WEA is grateful that the High Commissioner has mentioned "killings, abductions, sexual violence and forced recruitment," as well as "intercommunal violence between farming communities and herders," in his Global Update at HRC 59. The WEA respectfully asks the High Commissioner to urgently address with the government of Nigeria the severe human rights violations, particularly in the Middle Belt region, and to urge that government to take immediate and effective steps to protect the population and de-escalate the on-going conflict.
- The WEA respectfully requests the High Commissioner to mandate OHCHR to enhance monitoring and public reporting on freedom of religion or belief violations in Nigeria's Middle Belt. This should include systematic documentation of attacks on religious communities, clergy, and places of worship, with disaggregated data on victims. Early warning analysis should be shared with the Government of Nigeria and relevant UN mechanisms to enable preventive action. Transparent reporting will strengthen accountability and help prevent further loss of life.
- The WEA urges the High Commissioner to call on the Government of Nigeria to establish victim-centered remedies for communities affected by ethno-religious violence, including in Ngbra Zongo and other areas of Plateau State. This should include access to justice, psychosocial support, reparations, and protection for displaced persons to return safely. The High Commissioner should also encourage technical assistance from OHCHR to support state and local authorities in integrating freedom of religion or belief safeguards into peacebuilding and reconciliation processes.

(1) Evangelical Fellowship of India, "EFI Deeply Grieved by Killing of Church Leaders in Manipur". 13 May 2026. <https://efionline.org/2026/05/13/efi-deeply-grieved-by-killing-of-church-leaders-in-manipur/>

(2) The Shillong Times, "Kuki Christian forum appeals for peace, unity among hill tribes of Manipur". 1 May 2026. <https://theshillongtimes.com/2026/05/01/kuki-christian-forum-appeals-for-peace-unity-among-hill-tribes-of-manipur-2/>

(3) Religious Liberty Commission of Evangelical Fellowship of India, "Hate and Targeted Violence Against Christians in India: Yearly Report 2025." 24 March 2026. <https://efionline.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/EFIRLC-Yearly-Report-2025.pdf>

(4) UNHCR Nigeria Forcibly Displaced Populations Dashboard. 1 April 2026.