

Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 31st Session

Universal Periodic Review of Nigeria

Statement by Australia

Australia welcomes Nigeria's formation of the Presidential Investigative Panel and the army-led Special Board of Inquiry as important steps towards ensuring accountability of the Nigerian armed forces and law enforcement officials. **Australia recommends Nigeria commit to releasing the findings from the Presidential Investigative Panel and the army-led Special Board of Inquiry and to holding perpetrators to account.**

We also recommend that Nigeria ensure all operations by the military and security forces comply with international law and Nigeria's human rights obligations.

Australia is gravely concerned by the high number of death sentences imposed in Nigeria. In 2017, Nigeria imposed the highest number of death sentences in sub-Saharan Africa. **Australia recommends that Nigeria establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty, as a step towards complete abolition of this practice.**

Australia is also deeply concerned by reports that Nigerian police and security forces have arrested journalists, threatened NGOs and used live ammunition against protestors. **Australia recommends Nigeria protect the rights to freedom of association, expression and peaceful assembly for all Nigerians, regardless of ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity.**

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