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*Plenary sitting*

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4.2.2015

B8-0128/2015

## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

pursuant to Rule 123(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on recent atrocities in northern Nigeria  
(2014/2520(RSP))

**Charles Tannock**  
on behalf of the ECR Group

**European Parliament resolution on recent atrocities in northern Nigeria  
(2014/2520(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the fifth Nigeria-EU ministerial dialogue held in Abuja on 27 November 2014,
  - having regard to the Nigeria-EU Joint Way Forward of 2009,
  - having regard to the statements by the Vice-President/High Representative on the situation in Nigeria,
  - having regard to the statements by the UN Secretary-General on the situation in Nigeria,
  - having regard to the statement of 8 January 2015 by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the UN Office for West Africa, Mohamed ibn Chambas, on the situation in Nigeria,
  - having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
  - having regard to the UN Secretary General's report on Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC), published on 1 July 2014,
  - having regard to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights of 1981, ratified by Nigeria on 22 June 1983,
  - having regard to the second revision of the Cotonou Agreement 2007-2013, ratified by Nigeria on 27 September 2010,
  - having regard to Chapter IV of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, on the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion,
  - having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Nigeria is the biggest economy in the African continent and a major EU trade partner;
- B. whereas between 2009 and 2013, EU aid to Nigeria totalled about EUR 700 million, of which EUR 200 million were allocated to the consolidation of peace and stability, tackling poverty and creating job opportunities for young people (ex-militants) in the Niger Delta;
- C. whereas despite its vast resources, Nigeria ranks among the most unequal countries in the world;

- D. whereas the peace and stability of Nigeria are increasingly threatened by the militant Islamist group Boko Haram, which has wreaked havoc since 2009 with a wave of bombings, assassinations and abductions as it seeks to impose a strict form of Sharia law, overthrow the government and create an Islamic state;
- E. whereas up to 2 000 people were reportedly killed in the town of Baga on 3 January 2015 in the bloodiest attack yet by Boko Haram; whereas the Nigerian government disputes these figures and, despite credible reports suggesting that most of the victims were children, women and elderly people, claims that around 150 people were killed, most of them militants;
- F. whereas Boko Haram is now believed to control more than 50 000 square kilometres of north-eastern Nigeria;
- G. whereas in recent weeks Boko Haram has stepped up its assaults on strategically important towns and other targets in north-eastern Nigeria, with dozens reported killed;
- H. whereas Boko Haram has also targeted churches in what is believed to be attempts by the militants to stir up religious tension;
- I. whereas the escalating violence of the insurgency threatens the security of West Africa as a whole;
- J. whereas the Nigerian military faces a mountainous task with limited resources, trying to protect civilians from the bombers and gunmen who are spread over a large area;
- K. whereas counter-insurgency measures have yet to provide adequate protection for civilians from the threat posed by Boko Haram, with the population in the three north-eastern states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe subjected to increasingly intense attacks and systematic human rights violations;
- L. whereas a French-led initiative has called for Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon and Chad to contribute 700 troops each to a multinational force against Boko Haram, but no country has implemented the plan;
- M. whereas Boko Haram has taken and held a number of towns in north-east Nigeria and continues to forcibly recruit civilians to their ranks, including many children;
- N. whereas in April 2014 more than 270 girls were kidnapped from a government school in Chibok (Borno state); whereas the majority remain missing; whereas since then hundreds more people have been abducted by Boko Haram;
- O. whereas the United Nations estimates that the violence in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states has displaced 1.5 million people, while more than three million people have been affected by the insurgency;
- P. whereas more than 300 000 Nigerians have fled to north-western Cameroon and south-western Niger to escape the violence;

- Q. whereas the Boko Haram insurgency was discussed at the recent EU-Nigeria Ministerial Dialogue and was also addressed at the regional security conference held in Niamey on 20 January 2015;
- R. whereas on 10 January 2015 a suicide bomber, reported to be a 10-year-old girl, killed at least 19 people in Maiduguri in north-eastern Nigeria, in the latest such attack in the region; whereas the following day two female suicide attackers killed four people and injured more than 40 in the town of Potiskum;
- S. whereas on 12 January 2015 the Catholic Archbishop of Jos in central Nigeria accused the West of ignoring the Boko Haram threat and said the world had to show more determination to halt the group's advance in Nigeria;
- T. whereas on 9 January 2015 the UN High Commission for Refugees reported that the number of Nigerian refugees seeking safety in Chad had almost quadrupled in 10 days after attacks by Boko Haram insurgents in north-eastern Nigeria uprooted thousands;
- U. whereas presidential elections are scheduled to take place in Nigeria on 14 February 2015;
- V. whereas it is feared that the Boko Haram insurgency and increasing violence could prevent as many as one million Nigerians from voting in this year's elections, throwing into doubt the legitimacy of what is expected to be the closest vote in the country's history;
1. Strongly condemns the ongoing and increasingly disturbing violence in Nigeria, including the use of children as suicide bombers, which has led to thousands of deaths and injuries and displaced hundreds of thousands more;
  2. Deplores the massacre of innocent men, women and children, and stands shoulder to shoulder with the people of Nigeria in their determination to fight all forms of terrorism in their country;
  3. Calls for concerted international efforts to end the Nigerian bloodshed, but believes this must be driven by greater regional cooperation between states and other relevant actors;
  4. Calls on the European Union and its Member States to fulfil their commitment to providing a comprehensive range of political, development and humanitarian support to Nigeria and its people in tackling the Boko Haram threat and ensuring the development of the country;
  5. Believes the Nigerian Government has the right and responsibility to defend its people from terrorism, but insists that such actions must be conducted in accordance with respect for human rights and the rule of law;
  6. Calls on the Nigerian Government to ensure that the Nigerian military is properly equipped with all available resources to combat the Boko Haram threat;

7. Calls on the Nigerian Government to conduct a full and thorough investigation into such reports and to take appropriate action, in accordance with the rule of law, against those found to have been involved in human rights abuses;
8. Believes Nigeria's political leaders must use the forthcoming elections as a catalyst to resolve the country's economic and social problems, which are a cause of spiralling violence; further calls on Nigeria's political leadership to take measures to this effect to tackle government inefficiencies, corruption, mismanagement, and embezzlement of the country's oil wealth;
9. Regrets that the international community has so far failed to act to provide meaningful support to the people of Nigeria as regards both tackling the increasing violence and addressing social and economic issues;
10. Believes that reforms to Nigeria's judicial system are urgently needed in order to provide effective criminal justice to combat terrorism;
11. Supports the Nigerian Government in its actions aimed at combating the Boko Haram threat, but reminds it of its responsibility to ensure that such actions are conducted in accordance with international law;
12. Calls for thorough investigations of the allegations of human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings, torture, arbitrary arrest and extortion-related abuses, and believes such actions cannot be justified as a means of combating the threat posed by Boko Haram or other terrorist organisations;
13. Calls for further international efforts to secure the release of the 200-plus girls kidnapped by Boko Haram from a government school in Chibok in Borno state in April 2014;
14. Urges the Nigerian Government to work with regional partners to build a strong, robust coalition to combat the Boko Haram threat; further warns that without such cooperation the violence is likely to continue, undermining peace and stability across the region;
15. Expresses its concern for the safety of those seeking to vote in February's elections, particularly in areas which have already been subject to violent attacks; is further concerned that the growing security threat could prevent voters from going to the polls, thereby undermining the legitimacy of the election results;
16. Reminds the Government of Nigeria that the elections must be seen to be free and fair, and conducted in line with internationally accepted standards; further insists that local and international observers must be able to monitor the elections without interference or intimidation;
17. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the EEAS, the Vice-President of the European Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the parliaments and governments of the Member States, the Federal Government of Nigeria, the institutions of the African Union and of ECOWAS, the United Nations Secretary-General, the United Nations

General Assembly, the Co-Presidents of the ACP EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly and the PAN-African Parliament.