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E-004121/2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(8.12.2025)

In Nigeria, violence is systemic and cuts across ethno-religious boundaries. It affects, among others, Christian communities and places of worship. In this context, well-documented incidents show Christian communities, churches, schools, and clergy being deliberately targeted in the country.

The EU and its Member States have funded many projects on prevention of violence, peacebuilding and humanitarian support to populations affected by violence. The assistance does not specifically target groups over religious criteria, but according to needs and is guided by neutrality and impartiality.

The EU was particularly reactive after the Yelwata attack, in Benue State, which occurred in the night of 13-14 June 2025 - leaving 210 civilian deaths and displacing 4 685 persons to Makurdi, the state capital. It represents one of a series of violent attacks across the Middle Belt, driven by competition over access to land between herders and farmers and overlapping ethnic and religious divisions. The EU Ambassador visited the victims in Makurdi on 25 June 2025 together with the Federal Minister for Humanitarian Affairs. The EU provided rapid support (EUR 1.75 million in total), which was appreciated by the Federal and State Government.

The EU has been calling on Nigerian authorities to tackle violence in many areas of the country, and to step up their initiatives to address the main drivers of systemic insecurity. Through demarches, senior official meetings, and peace dialogues, the EU has been calling for transparent investigations, including into religious-based violence. The EU has continuously advocated for further protection of civilians irrespective of their religion, and for compliance with international humanitarian and human rights laws.