



Nigeria's Compliance with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Suggested List of Issues Prior to Reporting Relating to: The Death Penalty

Submitted by The Advocates for Human Rights
a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1996

Hope Behind Bars Africa

Avocats Sans Frontieres (Lawyers Without Borders) France

The Inclusion Project (TIP)

The Human Rights Law Service (HURILAWS)

and

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

**for the 83rd Session of the United Nations Committee Against Torture
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The Advocates for Human Rights (The Advocates) is a volunteer-based non-governmental organization committed to the impartial promotion and protection of international human rights standards and the rule of law since its founding in 1983. The Advocates conducts a range of programs to promote human rights in the United States and around the world, including monitoring and fact finding, direct legal representation, education and training, and publication. The Advocates is the primary provider of legal services to low-income asylum seekers in the Upper Midwest region of the United States. The Advocates is committed to ensuring human rights protection for women around the world. The Advocates has published more than 25 reports on violence against women as a human rights issue, provided consultation and commentary of draft laws on domestic violence, and trained lawyers, police, prosecutors, judges, and other law enforcement personnel to effectively implement new and existing laws on domestic violence. In 1991, The Advocates adopted a formal commitment to oppose the death penalty worldwide and organized a death penalty project to provide pro bono assistance on post-conviction appeals, as well as education and advocacy to end capital punishment. The Advocates currently holds a seat on the Steering Committee of the World Coalition against the Death Penalty.

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty is a membership-based global network committed to strengthening the international dimension of the fight against the death penalty. Established in 2002, its ultimate objective is to obtain the universal abolition of the death penalty.

To achieve its goal, the World Coalition advocates for a definitive end to death sentences and executions in those countries where the death penalty is in force. In some countries, it is seeking to obtain a reduction in the use of capital punishment as a first step towards abolition.

Hope Behind Bars Africa (HBBA) is a non-governmental organization with special consultative status with ECOSOC that is working to close the justice and inequality gap in Nigeria using early intervention legal support, technology and evidence-based advocacy. Under its Death Penalty Program, HBBA provides pro-bono legal representation to indigent women and other vulnerable groups on death row. HBBA also organizes capacity-building training for capital defense lawyers in Nigeria in collaboration with Cornell Centre on Death Penalty Worldwide. HBBA also combines data-driven narratives, real-life stories, and other advocacy tools to engage the public, policymakers, and legal professionals, encouraging them to critically examine the application of the death penalty in Nigeria.

Avocats Sans Frontieres (Lawyers Without Borders) France is an international NGO dedicated to upholding human rights and the rule of law across several countries including Nigeria. ASF France since 2009 has been implementing initiatives focused on combatting the use of torture by law enforcement agents and abolishing the death penalty in Nigeria. It combines its high level technical and legislative advocacy targeting policy change and law reform with capacity building for critical stakeholders and judicial actors with provision of direct legal assistance for torture victims and persons facing the death penalty. ASF France played a key role in the lead up to the passage of the anti-torture Act 2017 and consistently challenges the effectiveness and human rights implications of the death penalty through strategic litigation, advocacy campaigns, and promoting fair trial standards, aiming to reduce the number of offenses punishable by death and ultimately secure its abolition.

The Inclusion Project (TIP) is a non-governmental organization of Lawyers established to use the legal system to promote and protect the rights of vulnerable groups in Nigeria. TIP since its establishment has advocated against torture and other forms of ill-treatment perpetuated by law enforcement agencies and assists victims to seek redress and ensure that perpetrators are held accountable. In accordance with TIP's stance on the Death penalty, TIP advocates for the abolition of the Death penalty by lobbying the government to pass a moratorium halting all existing executions and provides pro-bono legal representation to indigent women and girls charged with capital offences to ensure that their rights to fair trial is enforced. Additionally, TIP conducts trainings, carries out advocacies and produces surveys to provide information and tools on the need for an effective criminal justice system and the abolition of the death penalty in Nigeria.

The Human Rights Law Service (HURILAWS) is a leading Nigerian non-profit organization dedicated to advancing human rights through strategic litigation, legislative advocacy, and legal reform. Established in 1997, HURILAWS has emerged as one of Nigeria's most prominent voices in the fight against capital punishment. As part of its comprehensive approach to criminal justice reform, HURILAWS has consistently advocated for the abolition of the death penalty in Nigeria through multiple strategic initiatives. The organization has challenged the constitutionality of mandatory death sentences, arguing that prolonged detention on death row without execution

constitutes cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment. Through its Death Penalty Project and Strategic Impact Litigation, HURILAWS has worked to expose systemic flaws in Nigeria's criminal justice system that compromise fair trial guarantees for capital cases. HURILAWS actively participates in international advocacy efforts, collaborating with organizations like the Legal Defence and Assistance Project (LEDAP) and the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty to highlight Nigeria's obligations under regional and international human rights instruments. The organization has consistently called for an official moratorium on all executions, supporting the recommendations of Nigeria's National Study Group on Death Penalty, which found fundamental unfairness in the country's capital punishment system. Beyond litigation, HURILAWS conducts extensive research and public education on death penalty issues, with particular attention to the discriminatory impact on vulnerable populations, including women and juveniles. The organization holds observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and maintains working relationships with national and international human rights networks to advance abolition efforts across Africa. HURILAWS continues to champion the principle that governments should “stop crime, not lives” through comprehensive criminal justice reform rather than capital punishment.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report addresses the Federal Republic of Nigeria's compliance with its obligations under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in the context of Nigeria's laws, policies, and customs concerning the death penalty. This report suggests questions that the Committee against Torture should consider posing to the Government of Nigeria in its List of Issues Prior to Reporting, particularly with respect to its administration of the death penalty.
2. Nigeria ratified the Convention on June 28, 2001. The State party was required to submit its initial report under article 19 (1) of the Convention by June 28, 2002. Each year thereafter, Nigeria was included in the list of States parties with overdue reports in the annual report, which the Committee submits to the States parties and the General Assembly.¹ Nigeria's initial report is now more than 23 years overdue.
3. Nigeria is a party to the Convention but has not ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. Nigeria has not abolished the death penalty but has established a *de facto* moratorium on executions, with no known judicial executions since 23 December 2016.² Nonetheless, Nigerian courts continue to sentence people to death and Nigerian laws do not limit the application of the death penalty to the "most serious" crimes within the meaning of Article 6(2) of the ICCPR. For example, consensual same-sex conduct can be a capital crime.³ Several crimes carry mandatory death sentences, including witchcraft and "juju."⁴ In May 2024, the Nigerian Senate proposed a bill to add drug trafficking to the list of capital crimes,⁵ but in November the Senate dropped the proposed expansion of the death penalty, responding to extensive engagement on the issue by the Nigerian abolitionist movement.⁶
4. The use of the death penalty in Nigeria's criminal justice system contravenes the Convention and violates the rights of people in several ways. First, despite the *de facto* moratorium on executions, courts still sentence people to death. Second, Nigerian law does not limit the death

¹ Committee Against Torture, *Concluding Observations in the absence of the initial report of Nigeria*, (December 21, 2021), U.N. Doc. CAT/C/NGA/COAR/1, ¶ 2.

² Maitama, Abuja-FCT, Amnesty International, *Nigeria: Not a Quick Fix to Insecurity: The Death Penalty as an Ineffective Deterrent to Crime* (2023), 18. Available online at <https://www.amnesty.org.ng/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/DEATH-PENALTY-BRIEFING-2023-final-version.pdf>.

³ Mai Sato and Sandra Babcock (eds.), Eleos Justice and Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, *Silently Silenced: State-Sanctioned Killing of Women* (March 2023), 20. Available online at <https://deathpenaltyworldwide.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Silently-Silenced-final-30-March-2023-2.pdf>.

⁴ Mai Sato and Sandra Babcock (eds.), Eleos Justice and Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, *Silently Silenced: State-Sanctioned Killing of Women* (March 2023), 22 n. 25. Available online at <https://deathpenaltyworldwide.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Silently-Silenced-final-30-March-2023-2.pdf>.

⁵ Bakare Majeed, *Capital Punishment Conundrum: In Nigeria, Death Penalty no Longer Serves its Purpose*, Premium Times Nigeria (Oct. 10, 2024). Available online at <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/743564-capital-punishment-conundrum-in-nigeria-death-penalty-no-longer-serves-its-purpose.html>.

⁶ Kenneth Udeh, *Senate drops "death penalty", adopts "life imprisonment" for drug offenders*, (Nov. 21, 2024). Available online at <https://thesun.ng/senate-drops-death-penalty-adopts-life-imprisonment-for-drug-offenders/>.

penalty to the most serious crimes, and in some cases, the death penalty is mandatory. Third, some execution methods for capital crimes in Nigeria violate the rights of individuals to be free from torture and ill-treatment. Fourth, individuals younger than 18 may be sentenced to death in Nigeria. Fifth, death penalty practices are unfair and discriminatory, having a disproportionate impact on Nigerians of lower socio-economic status who lack adequate access to legal representation, and there are fair trial and due process concerns due to corruption. Sixth, people on death row face poor detention conditions, with inadequate access to medical care, food, and water in violation of their rights to life, health, and security of the person. Seventh, discrimination against women in Nigeria's criminal justice system, including in capital cases, violates women's rights to equality and non-discrimination and equal recognition before the law. Eighth, human rights defenders in the abolitionist movement are subject to discrimination, and authorities have failed to create a safe and enabling environment for their work.

Nigeria fails to uphold its obligations under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

I. Nigeria has observed a *de facto* moratorium on executions since 2016, but courts continue to sentence people to death (Concluding Observations paras. 27-28).

5. Nigeria has long had the death penalty on its statute books. In 1996, the UN Human Rights Committee expressed concern "that the number of death sentences passed and actually carried out [in Nigeria] is very high," and recommended that the Nigerian Government "consider the abolition of the death penalty."⁷
6. In 2003, responding to criticism from civil society and changes in international human rights obligations such as ratification of the Torture Convention, the Nigerian Government empaneled a National Study Group on the Death Penalty in Nigeria. The Study Group was mandated to provide the federal government with an advisory opinion on the death penalty. In its 2004 report, the Study Group recommended "an official moratorium on all executions until the Nigerian Criminal Justice System can ensure fundamental fairness in capital cases and minimize the risk that innocent people will be executed."⁸
7. Similarly, the Committee against Torture, in its most recent Concluding Observations in 2021, acknowledged the moratorium in place but expressed regret that courts continued to pronounce death sentences. The Committee urged Nigeria to consider declaring an official moratorium on the death penalty for all crimes in law, covering the whole territory, and ratifying the Second

⁷ UN Human Rights Committee, *Consideration of reports submitted by states parties under article 40 of the Covenant, Concluding Observations of the Human Rights Committee: Nigeria*, July 24, 1996, U.N. Doc. CCPR/C/79/Add.65, ¶¶ 16, 31.

⁸ The Advocates for Human Rights, *et al.*, *Nigeria's Compliance with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: Death Penalty and Detention Conditions* (October 11, 2021), ¶ 5. Available online at https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCAT%2FCSS%2FNGA%2F46995&Lang=en.

Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.⁹ Nigeria has yet to implement the Committee's recommendations.

8. According to Amnesty International, in 2024 alone Nigerian courts sentenced at least 186 people to death.¹⁰ According to a July 2025 statement from the Nigerian Correctional Service, 3,833 people are currently under sentence of death, including 79 women.¹¹ The Supreme Court routinely upholds death sentences. For example, on 7 March 2025, the Supreme Court upheld the death sentence of Sunday Jackson for killing an attacker in self-defense.¹²

II. Not all death-eligible crimes in Nigeria reach the level of “most serious crimes,” and in some cases, the death penalty is mandatory (Concluding Observations para. 27).

9. In its 2021 Concluding Observations, the Committee expressed distress that 12 Nigerian states authorize the death penalty for offenses such as adultery, apostasy, witchcraft, and consensual same-sex sexual conduct.¹³
10. There are a variety of crimes that may result in a death sentence in Nigeria. Many of these crimes, which include treason,¹⁴ kidnapping,¹⁵ blasphemy,¹⁶ rape (in Jigwa state),¹⁷ and “homosexuality,”¹⁸ do not rise to the level of “most serious” crimes.

⁹ Committee Against Torture, *Concluding Observations in the absence of the initial report of Nigeria*, (December 21, 2021), U.N. Doc. CAT/C/NGA/COAR/1, ¶¶ 27, 28(b).

¹⁰ Amnesty International, *Death Sentences and Executions 2024* (2025), at 35, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/act50/8976/2025/en/>.

¹¹ *Ogun, Rivers top death row inmates list – Correctional service*, Vanguard, July 23, 2025, <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2025/07/ogun-rivers-top-death-row-inmates-list-correctional-service/>.

¹² Sahara Reporters, *How Supreme Court affirmed Death sentence for farmer Jackson in herdsman's murder*. Available online at https://saharareporters.com/2025/03/23/how-supreme-court-affirmed-death-sentence-farmer-jackson-herdsmans-murder#google_vignette.

¹³ Committee Against Torture, *Concluding Observations in the absence of the initial report of Nigeria*, (December 21, 2021), U.N. Doc. CAT/C/NGA/COAR/1, ¶ 27.

¹⁴ Ise-Oluwa Ige, *Death Penalty: Why Nigeria can no longer sit on the fence*, Vanguard (January 26, 2023). Available online at <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2023/01/death-penalty-why-nigeria-can-no-longer-sit-on-the-fence-lawyers/#:~:text=Even%20though%20the%20death%20sentence,and%20involvement%20with%20militia%20groups>.

¹⁵ Amnesty International, *Amnesty International Report 2022/23, The State of the World's Human Rights*, POL 10/5670/2023 (March 27, 2023). Available online at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/africa/west-and-central-africa/nigeria/report-nigeria/>.

¹⁶ Amnesty International, *Amnesty International Report 2022/23, The State of the World's Human Rights*, POL 10/5670/2023 (March 27, 2023). Available online at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/africa/west-and-central-africa/nigeria/report-nigeria/>; AFP, *Nigeria judge sentences imam to death over blasphemy*, The Guardian (December 15, 2022). Available online at <https://guardian.ng/news/nigeria-judge-sentences-imam-to-death-over-blasphemy/>.

¹⁷ Amnesty International, *Amnesty International Report 2021/22, The State of the World's Human Rights*, POL 10/4870/2022 (March 29, 2022). Available online at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/pol10/4870/2022/en/>.

¹⁸ Reuters, *Uganda's anti-gay law: how restricted are LGBTQ rights in Africa?*, Reuters (May 29, 2023). Available online at <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/africas-restrictions-lgbtq-rights-2023-05-29/>.

11. Federal law in Nigeria authorizes the death penalty for: armed robbery, murder, treason, conspiracy to commit treason, terrorism, kidnapping, instigating the invasion of Nigeria, misconduct in action (military offense), mutiny and dereliction of duty (military offenses), fabricating false evidence leading to the conviction of an innocent person, and aiding in the suicide of a child or “lunatic.”¹⁹
12. Twelve Nigerian states apply Sharia law. *Hudud* offenses, which Sharia law deems “the most serious crimes,” do not meet the “most serious crimes” standard under Article 6(2) of the ICCPR. *Hudud* offenses include the crimes of *zina* (adultery), apostasy, and waging war against God (e.g., mass murder, rape and murder, war crimes, and other forms of deliberate extreme violence that results in death), theft, drinking alcohol, and slander or defamation.²⁰
13. In 2004, Amnesty International reported that Sharia courts in Bauchi, Jigawa, Katsina, Niger, and Sokoto had handed down at least 11 death sentences, and some of these cases reflect gender bias. Three of those cases involved women accused of *zina*, two of whom had their sentences overturned on appeal. Two of the men involved were acquitted on the basis of swearing on the *Qur’an* and for “lack of evidence.”²¹
14. The death penalty is mandatory for some offenses. Mandatory death sentences strip courts of the flexibility to provide individualized sentences based on the offender and the nature of the unlawful conduct, and are therefore arbitrary deprivations of life and liberty.²²
15. Under the Criminal Code Act, killing someone unintentionally, without any intention to hurt another person, also carries a mandatory death penalty,²³ as does armed robbery or robbery resulting in harm to a victim.²⁴
16. In Nigerian states applying Sharia law, a married person who commits rape or adultery faces a mandatory death penalty by stoning.²⁵ “Homosexual sodomy” and blasphemy also carry a mandatory death sentence in states that apply Sharia law. In states applying Sharia law, rape, incest, the practice of some indigenous religions that may be considered “juju” or witchcraft,

¹⁹ The Advocates for Human Rights, *et al.*, *Nigeria’s Compliance with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: Death Penalty and Detention Conditions* (October 11, 2021), ¶ 12.

²⁰ Penal Reform International, *Sharia Law and the Death Penalty: Would Abolition of the Death Penalty Be Unfaithful to the Message of Islam?*, p.15.

²¹ Amnesty International, *The Death Penalty and Women under the Nigerian Penal Systems*, (February 2004). Available online at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/afr440012004en.pdf>.

²² Penal Reform International, *Sharia Law and the Death Penalty: Would Abolition of the Death Penalty Be Unfaithful to the Message of Islam?*, p.15.

²³ Criminal Code Act of Nigeria, sec. 316, Jun. 1, 1916, in *Laws of the Federation of Nigeria* (in force on the 31st day of December 2002), Ch. 38, Rev. Ed. 2004.

²⁴ Criminal Code Act of Nigeria, sec. 402, Jun. 1, 1916, in *Laws of the Federation of Nigeria* (in force on the 31st day of December 2002), Ch. 38, Rev. Ed. 2004.

²⁵ Center for Islamic Legal Studies of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, *Harmonised Sharia Penal Code Annotated*, sec. 128(b), Mar. 2002. Zamfara State Shari’ah Penal Code, sec. 129(b), Jan. 2000.

intentional killing during robbery, robbery resulting in death, and same-sex sexual conduct may all carry a mandatory death penalty.²⁶

17. In 2012, the High Court of Lagos State declared the mandatory death penalty unconstitutional, but that decision is enforceable only in that jurisdiction.²⁷
18. Nigerian government officials have expressed support for expanding the number of death-eligible offenses, but such efforts have not been successful. In September 2021, Nigeria's deputy minister in charge of mining development said that gold smugglers deserve the death penalty.²⁸ In June 2021, the Nigerian Minister of Transportation stated that railroad track vandalism should be punishable by death.²⁹
19. In 2019, a Nigerian senator proposed the "National Commission for the Prohibition of Hate Speeches Bill, 2019 (SB. 154)" that would make certain instances of hate speech punishable by death. The bill passed both readings in November 2019 but was met with opposition from the community. After receiving significant push-back from human rights activists, lawmakers eventually removed reference to the death penalty from the proposed bill.³⁰
20. In November 2024, the Nigerian Senate dropped proposed legislation to add drug trafficking to the list of capital crimes, responding to extensive engagement on the issue by the Nigerian abolitionist movement.³¹

III. Nigerian law authorizes extreme execution methods, violating the rights of individuals to be free from torture and ill-treatment.

21. As discussed in paragraph 15 above, in Nigerian states applying Sharia law, rape committed by a married person and adultery by a married person carries a mandatory death penalty by stoning.³²
22. In 2012, when the High Court of Lagos State declared the mandatory death penalty unconstitutional, the court further reasoned that execution by hanging or firing squad is

²⁶ Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, *Death Penalty Database: Nigeria* (last updated May 23, 2019). Available online at <https://dpw.lawschool.cornell.edu/database/#/results/country?id=53>.

²⁷ Penal Reform International, *Sharia Law and the Death Penalty: Would Abolition of the Death Penalty Be Unfaithful to the Message of Islam?*, p.15.

²⁸ Bloomberg, "Nigerian Minister Wants Death Penalty for Gold Smuggling" (September 15, 2021). Available online at <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-09-15/nigerian-minister-wants-death-penalty-for-gold-smuggling>.

²⁹ The Guardian, "FG mulls death penalty for railway vandals" (June 7, 2021). Available online at <https://guardian.ng/news/fg-mulls-death-penalty-for-railway-vandals/>.

³⁰ "Nigeria: Bills on hate speech and social media are dangerous attacks on freedom of expression" (December 4, 2019). Available online at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/press-release/2019/12/nigeria-bills-on-hate-speech-and-social-media-are-dangerous-attacks-on-freedom-of-expression/>.

³¹ Kenneth Udeh, *Senate drops "death penalty", adopts "life imprisonment" for drug offenders* (Nov. 21, 2024). Available online at <https://thesun.ng/senate-drops-death-penalty-adopts-life-imprisonment-for-drug-offenders/>.

³² Center for Islamic Legal Studies of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, *Harmonised Sharia Penal Code Annotated*, sec. 128(b), Mar. 2002. Zamfara State Shari'ah Penal Code, sec. 129(b), Jan. 2000.

unconstitutional as it violates a person's rights to dignity of the human person and to be free from torture and inhumane or degrading treatment under Section 34(1)(a) of the Constitution.³³

23. For secular offenses, the method of execution is hanging or, for a limited number of offenses under the Federal Robbery and Firearms Act, shooting.³⁴ The Administration of Criminal Justice Act of 2015 also authorizes execution by lethal injection.³⁵ Under Sharia law and the Federal Capital Territory legislation, the method of execution depends on the jurisdiction and the nature of the offense, but it may be by caning, amputation, shooting, stoning, or crucifixion (*salb*).³⁶

IV. Nigerian laws authorize the death penalty for juvenile offenders (Concluding Observations para. 28(a)).

24. In its 2021 Concluding Observations, the Committee recommended that Nigeria immediately prohibit the death penalty for all persons under the age of 18, in compliance with federal law.³⁷
25. Nigeria's federal Child Act (also called the Child's Rights Act) prohibits sentencing any person under the age of 18 to death. That act is enforceable only in the Federal Capital Territory of Abuja and in states that have explicitly enacted the Child's Rights Act. As of May 2018, 26 states (out of 36) had passed the Child Act. In the remaining states, individuals age 17 may be punished as adults and therefore may be subject to the death penalty.³⁸
26. Moreover, in certain states, courts may also sentence to death individuals who were younger than 18 at the time the crime was committed because of the vague definition of "child" under Sharia law. Although Nigerian law prohibits sentencing children to death, states applying Sharia law treat individuals who have reached puberty as adults, even if they are under 18 years of age.³⁹ Although Shariah law does not define the age of puberty, the leader of the Islamic

³³ Penal Reform International, *Sharia Law and the Death Penalty: Would Abolition of the Death Penalty Be Unfaithful to the Message of Islam?*, p.15; *Ajulu v. Attorney General of Lagos State*, Suit No. ID/76M/2008, High Ct. of Lagos State, June 29, 2012.

³⁴ Penal Reform International, *Sharia Law and the Death Penalty: Would Abolition of the Death Penalty Be Unfaithful to the Message of Islam?*, p.15; *Ajulu v. Attorney General of Lagos State*, Suit No. ID/76M/2008, High Ct. of Lagos State, June 29, 2012.

³⁵ J.B. Nwachukwu, Death penalty in Nigeria: Constitutional but unconventional, *Business Day* (April 26, 2017). Available online at <https://businessday.ng/analysis/article/death-penalty-nigeria-constitutional-unconventional/>.

³⁶ 2020 County Reports on Human Rights Practices: Nigeria (March 30, 2021). Available online at <https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/nigeria/>.

³⁷ Committee Against Torture, *Concluding Observations in the absence of the initial report of Nigeria*, (December 21, 2021), U.N. Doc. CAT/C/NGA/COAR/1, ¶ 28(a).

³⁸ Amnesty International, *Nigeria: Bills on hate speech and social media are dangerous attacks on freedom of expression* (December 4, 2019). Available online at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/press-release/2019/12/nigeria-bills-on-hate-speech-and-social-media-are-dangerous-attacks-on-freedom-of-expression/>.

³⁹ Center for Islamic Legal Studies of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, *Harmonised Sharia Criminal Procedure Code Annotated*, Sections 1, 238, p. 234 n. 115, Oct. 2005; *see also*, Official Website of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria, *Sheikh Addresses Children who attain the Age of Taklif*. Available online at <https://islamicmovement.org/sheikh-addresses-children-who-attain-the-age-of-taklif/> (last accessed July 8, 2025).

Movement in Nigeria explained in 2014 that the age of puberty was 9 years for girls and 14 years for boys.⁴⁰

27. Through a case brought by Avocats Sans Frontieres France, the ECOWAS Court held that the death sentence passed on Maimuna Abdulmumini, a child bride, for allegedly killing her husband when she was 13 years old, violated Nigeria's international human rights obligations and ordered a stay of execution and Ms. Abdulmumini's subsequent release from prison.⁴¹
28. In September 2023, Hope Behind Bars Africa reported on the heart-wrenching letter of Mustapha Abubakar, a fifteen-year-old child on death row, to underscore the urgent need for a comprehensive examination of Nigeria's juvenile sentencing laws.⁴²
29. In November 2024, the Associated Press reported that twenty-nine children could be facing the death penalty after they were arrested and charged with 10 felony counts, including treason, destruction of property, public disturbance, and mutiny for participating in a protest against the country's cost-of-living crisis.⁴³

V. The death penalty has a disproportionate effect on Nigerians of lower socio-economic status who lack adequate access to legal representation. Widespread corruption undermines the right to due process and the right to a fair trial.

30. People who are charged with capital offenses may experience a variety of due process violations, rendering the imposition of the death penalty arbitrary.
31. In August 2020, a Nigerian court in Kano province sentenced Yahaya Sharfi-Aminu, a 22-year-old Nigerian, to death for sharing via WhatsApp a song that he wrote and performed.⁴⁴ The imposition of the death penalty in Sharfi-Aminu's case is especially concerning in light of the various due process violations during his trial.⁴⁵ Authorities not only prohibited him from communicating with anyone while in custody, but also denied him access to a lawyer during

⁴⁰ Amnesty International, *Nigeria: Bills on hate speech and social media are dangerous attacks on freedom of expression* (December 4, 2019). Available online at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/press-release/2019/12/nigeria-bills-on-hate-speech-and-social-media-are-dangerous-attacks-on-freedom-of-expression/>.

⁴¹ Moyosoluwa Olorunsola, *Maimuna: Child Bride Saved from the Jaws of Death* (February 1, 2020). Available online at https://dailytrust.com/maimuna-child-bride-saved-from-the-jaws-of-death/#google_vignette.

⁴² Samson Onuche, *The Illegality of Imposing the Death Penalty on Minors in Nigeria* (September 18, 2023). Available online at <https://medium.com/@HopeBehindBarsAfrica/the-illegality-of-imposing-the-death-penalty-on-minors-in-nigeria-728661745b6f>.

⁴³ Associated Press, *29 children may be sentenced to death for protesting against cost-of-living crisis in Nigeria*, (November 3, 2024). Available online at <https://www.cnn.com/2024/11/02/africa/children-face-death-penalty-cost-of-living-nigeria-intl-latam>.

⁴⁴ Rights experts denounce death sentence against Nigerian singer who posted on WhatsApp, United Nations (September 28, 2020). Available online at <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/09/1074022>.

⁴⁵ Rights experts denounce death sentence against Nigerian singer who posted on WhatsApp, United Nations (September 28, 2020). Available online at <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/09/1074022>.

his trial, which was closed to the public.⁴⁶ The Court of Appeal ordered his retrial in August 2022, but he remains in detention at the custodial center.⁴⁷

32. As of 2019, the Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide found that “the Legal Aid Council and the Office of Public Defender rarely give counsel to indigent defendants at the appellate level.”⁴⁸ As a result, indigent defendants are rarely able to appeal their death sentences, in violation of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ratification and enforcement) Act Cap 10 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria.⁴⁹
33. People sentenced to death face other violations to the right to a fair trial, including arbitrary arrest, incommunicado detention, failure to be informed of their rights, and prolonged pretrial detention.⁵⁰
34. The death penalty has a disproportionate effect on Nigerians of lower socio-economic status. Over 70% of Nigerian defendants are indigent. According to the Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, the lack of qualified public defenders has resulted in inadequate representation for many Nigerians in conflict with the law, including in capital cases.⁵¹ According to the Cornell Center, “Nigeria’s Legal Aid Act falls short of [the principle that all capital defendants must be represented by a lawyer], providing only that courts ‘may’ provide legal aid in serious criminal cases. Furthermore, the list of charges that are eligible for legal aid does not include armed robbery, a mandatory death penalty offense. Nigeria’s Legal Aid Council, created to provide counsel to indigent defendants, has only one salaried lawyer per state. . . . Legal Aid is further hampered by inadequate logistics, dearth of current and relevant [legal texts], poor remuneration, low publicity for the [Legal Aid process], failure to introduce new initiatives and programs, and dearth of essential infrastructure.”⁵²

⁴⁶ Rights experts denounce death sentence against Nigerian singer who posted on WhatsApp, United Nations (September 28, 2020). Available online at <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/09/1074022>.

⁴⁷ Amnesty International, *Amnesty International Report 2022/23, The State of the World's Human Rights*, POL 10/5670/2023 (March 27, 2023). Available online at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/africa/west-and-central-africa/nigeria/report-nigeria/>.

⁴⁸ Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, *Death Penalty Database: Nigeria* (last updated May 23, 2019). Available online at <https://dpw.lawschool.cornell.edu/database/#/results/country?id=53>.

⁴⁹ Amnesty International, *Waiting for the Hangman*. Available online at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/afr440202008en.pdf>.

⁵⁰ Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, *Nigeria’s Debate on Death Penalty: Sign Execution Warrants or Impose a Moratorium?* (June 21, 2019). Available online at <https://deathpenaltyworldwide.org/nigerias-debate-on-capital-punishment-sign-execution-warrants-or-impose-a-moratorium/>.

⁵¹ Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, *Justice Denied: A Global Study of Wrongful Death Row Convictions* (published in January 2018). Available online at https://files.deathpenaltyinfo.org/legacy/files/pdf/innocence_clinic_report_2018_R4_final.pdf.

⁵² Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, *Justice Denied: A Global Study of Wrongful Death Row Convictions* (published in January 2018), at 44. Available online at https://files.deathpenaltyinfo.org/legacy/files/pdf/innocence_clinic_report_2018_R4_final.pdf.

35. Further, because corruption is widespread throughout the police system, bribery is prevalent among arrestees. Nigerians who cannot afford to pay a bribe to the police remain detained, are denied bail, and sometimes tortured to obtain a confession.⁵³

VI. People on death row face poor detention conditions, with inadequate access to medical care, food, and water (Concluding Observations paras. 19-20).

36. In its 2021 Concluding Observations, the Committee expressed concern about reports of “poor material and sanitary conditions of detention,” as well as lack of access to proper medical care, and inadequate food and water. The Committee also expressed concern about detention conditions for people with disabilities. The Committee recommended that Nigeria improve conditions of detention and align them with the Nelson Mandela Rules. The Committee also called on Nigeria to ensure that people with disabilities are held in humane conditions and receive adequate health services, and to ensure that women are detained in gender-sensitive conditions.⁵⁴

37. In 2019, President Buhari signed the Nigerian Correctional Services Bill into law. The Act repeals relevant sections of the Prison Act and establishes a Nigerian Correctional Services Act to improve prison practices and administration.⁵⁵

38. Despite the new Act, Nigerian custodial centers are severely overcrowded, with the prison population far exceeding official capacity.⁵⁶ As of 2025, Nigerian authorities were holding approximately 82,000 people in detention, with more than 54,000 awaiting trial.⁵⁷ This congestion is exacerbated by the large number of individuals on death row—more than 3,600 as of March 2025.⁵⁸

⁵³ Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, *Justice Denied: A Global Study of Wrongful Death Row Convictions* (published in January 2018), at 46. Available online at https://files.deathpenaltyinfo.org/legacy/files/pdf/innocence_clinic_report_2018_R4_final.pdf.

⁵⁴ Committee Against Torture, *Concluding Observations in the absence of the initial report of Nigeria*, (December 21, 2021), U.N. Doc. CAT/C/NGA/COAR/1, ¶¶ 19-20.

⁵⁵ Policy and Legal Advocacy Center, *President Buhari signs Nigerian Correctional Services Bill into Law* (September 2, 2019). Available online at <https://placng.org/Legist/president-buhari-signs-nigerian-correctional-services-bill-into-law/>.

⁵⁶ Mohammed Momoh, *Inmates awaiting trial, death row convicts fill Nigeria Prisons*, *The East African* (May 11, 2023). Available online <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/news/west-africa/inmates-awaiting-trial-congest-nigeria-prisons-4230850>.

⁵⁷ World Prison Brief, *Nigeria* (June 23, 2025). Available online at <https://www.prisonstudies.org/country/nigeria>.

⁵⁸ Abdulqudus Ogundapo, *3,688 inmates on death row in Nigeria – NCoS CG* (March 13, 2025). Available online at <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/780460-3688-inmates-on-death-row-in-nigeria-ncos-cg.html>.

39. Most custodial centers were built before 1950 and lack modern infrastructure, such as adequate drainage and ventilation systems.⁵⁹ Death row cells are particularly dire, often dark, poorly ventilated, and lacking basic amenities.⁶⁰
40. People on death row have extremely limited access to medical care.⁶¹ Many facilities have only one doctor, often a general practitioner responsible for multiple centers.⁶² Furthermore, there is a severe shortage of mental health professionals; as of 2018, the prison service employed only one psychiatrist.⁶³
41. In March 2025, Amnesty International reported that Yahaya Sheriff-Aminu, age 25, who had been sentenced to death for sharing a song on WhatsApp (as mentioned above in paragraph 29), had been remanded to a correctional facility without access to life-saving medication for his asthmatic condition.⁶⁴
42. Nigerian custodial centers do not cater to the sanitation, hygiene, pregnancy, and childcare needs of the women who make up approximately 2% of the detained population. Detention authorities fail to attend to the needs of these women, partly due to the lack of gender-responsive budgeting and partly because many programs in detention facilities were designed with men in mind.⁶⁵
43. Prison officials make minimal efforts to provide mental health services or accommodations for people in detention with disabilities.⁶⁶ People with physical or psychosocial disabilities are often left without necessary aid or treatment, and policies prohibit the use of wheelchairs or metallic crutches inside prisons, causing further physical and psychological harm.⁶⁷

⁵⁹ Damian Ugwu, *To Kill or Not to Kill: Unending debate about death penalty in Nigeria*, Sahara Reporters (Oct. 10, 2022). Available online at <https://saharareporters.com/2022/10/10/kill-or-not-kill-unending-debate-about-death-penalty-nigeria-damian-ugwu>.

⁶⁰ Damian Ugwu, *To Kill or Not to Kill: Unending debate about death penalty in Nigeria*, Sahara Reporters (Oct. 10, 2022). Available online at <https://saharareporters.com/2022/10/10/kill-or-not-kill-unending-debate-about-death-penalty-nigeria-damian-ugwu>.

⁶¹ Mai Sato and Sandra Babcock (eds.), Eleos Justice and Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, *Silently Silenced: State-Sanctioned Killing of Women* (March 2023), 28. Available online at <https://deathpenaltyworldwide.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Silently-Silenced-final-30-March-2023-2.pdf>.

⁶² Mai Sato and Sandra Babcock (eds.), Eleos Justice and Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, *Silently Silenced: State-Sanctioned Killing of Women* (March 2023), 28. Available online at <https://deathpenaltyworldwide.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Silently-Silenced-final-30-March-2023-2.pdf>.

⁶³ A. O. Ogunlesi & A. Ogunwale, *Correctional Psychiatry in Nigeria: Dynamics of Mental Healthcare in the most Restrictive Alternative*, 15 BJPsych International, no. 2 (2018) at 36.

⁶⁴ Amnesty International, *Nigeria: Singer on Death Row denied medical care* (March 2025). Available online at <https://amnesty.ca/urgent-actions/nigeria-singer-on-death-row-denied-medical-care/>.

⁶⁵ Daily Trust, *Center wants care for pregnant women, babies in Nigerian Prisons* (Jan. 2025). Available online at <https://dailytrust.com/center-wants-care-for-pregnant-women-babies-in-nigeria-prisons/>.

⁶⁶ United States Department of State, *Nigeria 2023 Human Rights Report* (2023), 7. Available online at https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/528267_NIGERIA-2023-HUMAN-RIGHTS-REPORT.pdf.

⁶⁷ Daniel Chibuike, *Why We Don't Allow Disabled Inmates to Use Wheelchairs Inside Prisons – NcoS*, Daily Post (Dec. 20, 2024). Available online at <https://dailypost.ng/2024/12/20/why-we-dont-allow-disabled-inmates-to-use-wheelchairs-inside-prisons-ncos/>.

44. Prisons' visitation policies are restrictive and inconsistently enforced, making it difficult for people in detention to maintain contact with family or legal counsel.⁶⁸ In some cases, the parties must pay bribes to prison officers to receive permission for a visit.⁶⁹ People who are unable to pay bribes are at greater risk of neglect and abuse, further compounding the negative effects of death row detention conditions.
45. In a July 2025 statement, a representative of the Nigerian Correctional Service conceded that the population of people on death row creates "congestion" challenges, but asserted that the service was providing people on death row with educational programs and vocational training.⁷⁰

VII. Women in conflict with the law, particularly women charged with capital crimes, experience discrimination within the criminal legal system (Concluding Observations paras. 31-32).

46. In its 2021 Concluding Observations, the Committee urged Nigeria to continue efforts to combat all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, as well as to ensure effective investigations into all cases of gender-based violence, including prosecution of alleged perpetrators, and provision of adequate redress to victims.⁷¹
47. Available data show that the number of women sentenced to death in Nigeria, while relatively small, has been steadily increasing. The Nigerian Correctional Service reported in July 2025 that 79 women are under sentence of death,⁷² an increase from 61 in 2021⁷³ and 73 in April 2024.⁷⁴
48. A significant proportion of women sentenced to death in Nigeria have been convicted of killing close family members, often in the context of prolonged domestic violence, forced marriage, or other forms of gender-based violence. According to the Cornell Center on the Death Penalty

⁶⁸ World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, Penal Reform International, *Prison conditions for women facing the death penalty: A factsheet* (Oct. 2018), 4. Available online at <https://deathpenaltyworldwide.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Prison-conditions-for-women-facing-death-penalty.pdf>.

⁶⁹ Mai Sato and Sandra Babcock (eds.), Eleos Justice and Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, *Silently Silenced: State-Sanctioned Killing of Women* (March 2023), 20. Available online at <https://deathpenaltyworldwide.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Silently-Silenced-final-30-March-2023-2.pdf>.

⁷⁰ *Ogun, Rivers top death row inmates list – Correctional service*, Vanguard, July 23, 2025, <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2025/07/ogun-rivers-top-death-row-inmates-list-correctional-service/>.

⁷¹ Committee Against Torture, *Concluding Observations in the absence of the initial report of Nigeria*, (December 21, 2021), U.N. Doc. CAT/C/NGA/COAR/1, ¶¶ 31-32.

⁷² *Ogun, Rivers top death row inmates list – Correctional service*, Vanguard, July 23, 2025, <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2025/07/ogun-rivers-top-death-row-inmates-list-correctional-service/>.

⁷³ World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, *Data Mapping: Women on Death Row* (2023), 15. Available online at <https://worldcoalition.org/document/data-mapping-women-on-death-row/>.

⁷⁴ Kudirat M Kekere-Ekun, *Empathy and Action: Women and Girls Incarcerated* (2024). Available online at <https://www.iawj.org/idwj-2024-nigeria-association-of-women-judges>.

Worldwide, several women sentenced to death in Nigeria for killing abusive family members had been forcibly married at a young age.⁷⁵

49. In a 2023 study, a Nigerian capital-defense practitioner who has handled more than thirty homicide cases involving women stated that she had “almost never met a woman facing a capital charge of homicide that is not linked to gender-based violence.”⁷⁶ Subsequent interviews conducted by HURILAWS in December 2023 with six women on death row revealed that five had experienced severe domestic violence before the offense that resulted in their death sentence.⁷⁷
50. Courts do not adequately consider gender-based violence as a mitigating factor. Mandatory death sentences for capital murder, adultery, “homosexual sodomy,” and certain Sharia-based offenses (such as *zina*) preclude judges from exercising discretion and compel the imposition of death even where overwhelming evidence of abuse exists.⁷⁸ Even when judges have the discretion to impose a sentence other than death, there is little evidence to suggest that defense attorneys introduce gender-specific mitigation or that courts consider such evidence if it is presented.
51. The vast majority of women on death row in Nigeria are indigent and lack access to quality legal representation.⁷⁹ Many are illiterate and unable to pay for legal counsel, further undermining their right to a fair trial and their ability to present gender-specific defenses or gender-specific mitigation evidence.⁸⁰
52. According to a Key Informant Interview conducted by Hope Behind Bars Africa, across 11 correctional centres, 67.8% of women on death row had children prior to their incarceration. Even with restricted access, however, they are unable to care for their children. The children are reported to be largely under the care of parents, spouses, friends, neighbors, and others.
53. The outcome of the interview shows that 70.8% of the women had encountered gender-based violence before their incarceration. Furthermore, the circumstances leading to the offense committed before incarceration are not without cultural and gender-related factors, including

⁷⁵ Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, *Judged for More Than Her Crime: A Global Overview of Women Facing the Death Penalty* (September 2018), at 11. Available online at <https://deathpenaltyworldwide.org/publication/judged-more-than-her-crime/>.

⁷⁶ Monash University, *Silently Silenced State-Sanctioned Killing of Women* (2023). Available online at https://bridges.monash.edu/articles/report/Silently_Silenced_State-Sanctioned_Killing_of_Women/22357627.

⁷⁷ *Gender and Death Penalty in Action: Nigeria*, HURILAWS, ASF France, LEDAP, and Eversheds Sutherland, (Mar. 4, 2024).

⁷⁸ Center for Islamic Legal Studies of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Harmonised Sharia Penal Code Annotated, sec. 128(b), Mar. 2002. Zamfara State Shari’ah Penal Code, sec. 129(b), Jan. 2000.

⁷⁹ Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, *Judged for More Than Her Crime: A Global Overview of Women Facing the Death Penalty* (September 2018). Available online at <https://deathpenaltyworldwide.org/publication/judged-more-than-her-crime/>.

⁸⁰ Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, *Judged for More Than Her Crime: A Global Overview of Women Facing the Death Penalty* (September 2018). Available online at <https://deathpenaltyworldwide.org/publication/judged-more-than-her-crime/>.

forced marriage, polygamy, family pressure, economic dependency, and forced silence of women.

54. Like other people in detention, women on death row have very limited access to mental and psychological health care, making their living experience even more difficult due to the emotional demands of their particular sentence. Reports show that 74.6% of these women have no access to public or private mental health support systems.

VIII. Human rights defenders in the abolitionist movement experience discrimination and violence, and authorities fail to create a safe and enabling environment for their work.

55. Human rights defenders advocating for the abolition of the death penalty in Nigeria face significant risks, including threats, harassment, and violence. A notable example is the assassination of Arthur Judah Angel, a prominent anti-death penalty advocate and President of Life Wire International Foundation, who was murdered in his home in Edo State in July 2024.⁸¹ This incident illustrates the grave dangers faced by those who campaign against the death penalty and highlights the lack of effective protection mechanisms for human rights defenders in Nigeria.
56. Government-aligned groups and media frequently launch smear campaigns to discredit abolitionists, portraying them as security threats or terrorist sympathizers.⁸² These attacks damage activists' reputation and isolate them from public support, while the government remains silent. For instance, in 2020, the Centre for African Liberation and Socio-economic Rights, a pro-government group, threatened to attack Amnesty International's Nigeria officers, labeling them anti-national and pro-terrorist for opposing extrajudicial killings.⁸³
57. Authorities have largely failed to provide adequate protection to human rights defenders under threat, nor have they effectively investigated or prosecuted the people who have targeted them.⁸⁴ Importantly, Nigeria has no specific law or policy to safeguard human rights defenders.⁸⁵

⁸¹ Sahara Reporters, *Nigerian Police Confirm Killing Of Human Rights Defender, Arthur Judah, Arrest Son For Murder* (July 17, 2024). Available online at <https://saharareporters.com/2024/07/17/nigerian-police-confirm-killing-human-rights-defender-arthur-judah-arrest-son-murder>.

⁸² Vanguard News, *Ethnoreligious killings: Group accuses AI of double standards in promoting violence across Nigeria* (Feb 2021). Available online at <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2021/02/ethnoreligious-killings-group-accuses-ai-of-double-standards-in-promoting-violence-across-nigeria/>.

⁸³ Vanguard News, *Ethnoreligious killings: Group accuses AI of double standards in promoting violence across Nigeria* (Feb 2021). Available online at <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2021/02/ethnoreligious-killings-group-accuses-ai-of-double-standards-in-promoting-violence-across-nigeria/>.

⁸⁴ Amnesty International, *Nigeria: Accountability for Human Rights Violations Remain Elusive* (2024). Available online at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/afr44/6970/2023/en/>.

⁸⁵ Focus, *Nigeria* (2024). Available online at <https://www.focus-obs.org/location/nigeria/>.

IX. Suggested Questions for the Government of Nigeria

58. The coauthors suggest that the Committee request the following information from the Government of Nigeria:

- Provide comprehensive data from 2002 (due date of initial report) to the present about the number of persons charged with capital crimes or sentenced to death, disaggregated by gender, age, race/ethnicity, nationality, disability, relationship to any codefendants or victims, crime of conviction, date of conviction, sentencing authority, whether the death sentence was mandatory, status of any appeals or petitions of clemency, current sentence, and current location.
- Provide details about every woman currently under sentence of death, including information about any relationships she may have had with codefendants or victims, as well as any history of gender-based violence.
- What training and support are provided to judges and defense counsel in capital cases regarding gender-specific defenses and mitigation?
- What policies and procedures ensure that the criminal justice system takes full account of any mitigating factors related to people's backgrounds, including evidence of trauma, gender-based violence including domestic violence, as well as failures within the criminal justice system to provide adequate accommodations for people with psycho-social and intellectual disabilities?
- How do authorities ensure that, consistent with international human rights standards, courts do not sentence any person to death for crimes that do not rise to the level of "most serious" under international human rights standards?
- What processes are currently in place to accommodate indigent persons throughout the legal process and particularly in relation to their right to appeal a capital conviction?
- What measures have authorities taken to reduce overcrowding and improve detention conditions, particularly relating to sanitation and hygiene, food, and access to proper medical care, including for women in detention?
- Please describe the vocational and educational programs available to people under sentence of death, and clarify whether such programs are available to women and men alike. How do such programs differ from programs for lifers and people serving long prison sentences?
- What steps have authorities taken to establish a *de jure* moratorium on executions?
- What steps, if any, has the government taken to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights?

- How are judges and prosecutors trained to understand the nuances of capital cases? What steps do authorities undertake to include civil society organizations in preparing and implementing such training?
- What efforts are underway to remove mandatory sentencing regimes so that courts may properly consider mitigation evidence for every person charged with a capital offense?
- How do authorities ensure that no person is sentenced to death for a crime committed while under the age of 18?
- What safeguards are in place to guard against courts considering forced confessions and evidence obtained through torture in determining whether a person is guilty of a capital offense?
- What steps have authorities taken to investigate the assassination of Arthur Judah Angel and to hold the perpetrators accountable?
- What progress have authorities made in creating a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders, particularly people who express opposition to the death penalty?
- How are authorities remedying the inadequacies of the Legal Aid system, particularly in capital cases?
- What measures are in place to ensure that people on death row, especially women, receive adequate mental health care, considering the emotional distress and trauma associated with being on death row?
- How is the government ensuring that women on death row are not neglected in accessing hygiene products and facilities, especially given that the Nigerian Correctional Service has repeatedly raised concerns about inadequate funding?
- What are the crime preventative and control measures that the government has put in place based on an assessment to reduce root causes of capital offenses?
- How is the government collaborating with civil society actors to ensure that feedback gathered from field work is used to drive policy change?
- In addressing cultural practices that perpetuate harm and domestic violence, what efforts is the government making to intensify grassroots re-orientation and awareness?