



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

A Communion
of Churches

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Statement on Violence in Sub-Saharan Africa

On 16 June 2014 the LWF Council adopted the following Public Statement:

We, the members of the Council of the Lutheran World Federation, meeting in Medan, Indonesia June 11-17, 2014, representing 72 million Lutherans in 144 member churches in 79 countries;

Bearing in mind the recent statements made by the Lutheran Council in Africa and the General Church Council of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria;

Having shared the pain caused by, inter alia, the abduction of more than 270 school girls and, in separate incidents, the abduction of women by Boko Haram in Nigeria; bombings in Kenya and Tanzania; and violence in the Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan and South Sudan which spills over to Chad, Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, Cameroon and other countries in the region;

We strongly and unreservedly condemn violence irrespective of who the perpetrators are.

We therefore resolve to call upon:

- Boko Haram to release the school girls and others abducted in Nigeria unconditionally and immediately;
- The Nigerian and all African governments and all other U.N. member states to act jointly in order to prevent such barbaric actions to be taken in future and to take action together now to secure release of all those abducted;
- Al-Shabaab and its allies to desist from using violence as a vehicle to air and articulate its grievances;
- Seleka and Anti-Balaka in the Central African Republic to desist from killing their fellow citizens. Especially egregious are acts of violence perpetrated in the name of religion;

- The combatants in South Sudan, who have already caused much bloodshed, interrupted the planting season and are directly responsible for an impending famine which will likely affect 7 million people, to cease hostilities;
- The faith communities in the region to engage in inter-faith dialogue so as to foster the spirit and culture of peaceful co-existence in this part of God's world, which God has given to all its people;
- The churches of the Lutheran World Federation and their ecumenical partners to engage in critical reflection on the pain and suffering people are experiencing from the violence in sub-Saharan Africa and to continue to pray for peace and work for justice in Africa and the whole world.

Medan, Indonesia