

**THE ROLE OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ON THE PROMOTION AND  
PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN NIGERIA (1967-2009)**

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## **CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that this work was carried out by Precious Okeoghene ABRIFOR with the Matriculation Number: ART2004584 in the Department of History and International Studies, University of Benin, Benin City under my supervision.

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## **DEDICATION**

This work is dedicated to God Almighty.

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# CHAPTER ONE

## BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

### **Introduction**

The origins of amnesty in Nigeria date back to the 1960s, when the federal government granted amnesty to rebels who surrendered during the Nigerian Civil War (1967-1970)<sup>1</sup>. This move was aimed to promote national reconciliation and stability. In 2009, President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua introduced the Presidential Amnesty Programme (PAP) to address the Niger Delta crisis<sup>2</sup>. The program aimed to reintegrate militants through training, education, job placement and social support stipends. The PAP was a significant step towards addressing the region's grievances. Despite the PAP's successes, human rights concerns persist in Nigeria. Amnesty International has raised concerns about excessive force, torture, forced evictions, climate change impact, enforced disappearances and sexual and gender-based violence<sup>3</sup>. These issues underscore the need for sustained efforts to protect human rights. Amnesty International has been actively engaged in Nigeria since the 1970s. The organization has taken various actions, including Urgent Actions, research reports and campaigns to address human rights abuses and promote accountability<sup>4</sup>. The amnesty process in Nigeria has faced challenges and controversies. Critics argue that the PAP has not adequately addressed the root causes of the conflict, such as environmental degradation and economic inequality<sup>5</sup>. Others question the effectiveness of the program's reintegration strategies.

The history of amnesty in Nigeria is complex and multifaceted. While progress has been made, ongoing human rights concerns and challenges underscore the need for continued efforts to promote justice, accountability and sustainable development. Amnesty International established its Nigerian office to promote human rights and address local issues<sup>6</sup>. The organization focuses on advocating for prisoners of conscience, combating torture and ill-treatment, and supporting human rights defenders<sup>7</sup>. Amnesty International has raised concerns about various human rights issues in Nigeria, including excessive force used by defense and security forces to disperse protests<sup>8</sup>. The organization has also documented torture during police interrogation, forced evictions, climate change impact, enforced disappearances, and sexual and gender-based violence<sup>9</sup>.

The organization has taken various actions to address these issues, including Urgent Actions, research reports documenting human rights abuses and violations, and campaigns raising awareness and mobilizing public support<sup>10</sup>. To learn more or get involved, Amnesty International Nigeria was established at 34 Colorado Close, off Thames Street, off Alvan Ikoku Way, Maitama, Abuja FCT. Amnesty International (AI) is a renowned international non-governmental organization dedicated to promoting and protecting human rights worldwide, with its headquarters situated in the United Kingdom<sup>11</sup>. Founded in 1967 by lawyer Peter Benenson, AI boasts of over ten million members and supporters globally<sup>12</sup>. Its mission is to advocate for "a world where every individual enjoys all human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments"<sup>13</sup>. AI's origins date back to 1967

when Peter Benenson published "The Forgotten Prisoners" and "An Appeal for Amnesty" in *The Observer*, highlighting two Portuguese students jailed for toasting freedom and four others imprisoned for their beliefs<sup>14</sup>. Initially focused on prisoners of conscience, AI expanded its scope in the 1970s to address miscarriages of justice and torture under Seán MacBride and Martin Ennals' leadership<sup>15</sup>. In 1977, AI received the Nobel Peace Prize, solidifying its reputation as a leading human rights organization<sup>16</sup>. Notable Secretaries-general include Thomas Hammarberg in the 1980s, Pierre Sané in the 1990s, and Irene Khan in the 2000s, who have contributed significantly to AI's growth and impact<sup>17</sup>. AI aims to draw attention to human rights abuses and campaign for compliance with international laws and standards. The organization works tirelessly to mobilize public opinion, generating pressure on governments where abuse takes place. Through its efforts, AI seeks to create a world where human rights are respected and protected. In Nigeria, Amnesty International has established a presence to promote human rights and address local issues. AI Nigeria focuses on advocating for prisoners of conscience, combating torture and ill-treatment, and supporting human rights defenders. By engaging with local communities and authorities, AI Nigeria works towards a future where human rights are upheld. The impact of Amnesty International's work is evident in its numerous successes, from securing the release of prisoners of conscience to influencing policy changes. As AI continues to champion human rights globally, its dedication and perseverance inspire hope for a more just and equitable society.<sup>18</sup>

Human rights in Nigeria have experienced a tumultuous journey, shaped by the country's complex history, cultural diversity and political dynamics. Pre-colonial Nigeria was characterized by diverse socio-political formations, with various tribes and kingdoms governing themselves. While some argue that human rights were nonexistent, others contend that traditional societies recognized and protected fundamental rights. The notion of human rights in pre-colonial Nigeria is debated among scholars. Some Western writers suggest that human rights were foreign to traditional African societies due to the perceived lack of written laws and centralized governments. However, this perspective is challenged by evidence of customary laws and practices that protected individual rights. For instance, the Benin Empire and Sokoto Sultanate had established systems of governance and justice. The pre-colonial era saw the existence of principalities and ancient kingdoms like the Benin Empire and the powerful Sultanate of Sokoto. Governance was often a collective responsibility of chiefs and elders. Human rights were recognized and protected within the context of these traditional societies. The rights to life, property and social security were evident in prayers and libations.<sup>19</sup>

Colonialism significantly impacted human rights in Nigeria. The British colonial administration imposed its own system of governance, laws and values. Colonial rule was authoritarian, denying natives basic rights, like freedom of speech, press and assembly. The colonial legacy of human rights violations persisted. The colonial era was marked by exploitation, repression and discrimination. Colonialists plundered resources, enforced cheap labor and silenced critical voices. The British colonialists left a legacy of

monumental human rights infractions in Nigeria. Notably, the right to self-determination was denied, and authoritarian rule was entrenched.<sup>20</sup>

Post-independence Nigeria has made efforts to promote and protect human rights. The 1960, 1963, 1979 and 1999 Constitutions guaranteed fundamental rights and established them for enforcement. Civil and political rights, including freedom from discrimination, torture and arbitrary detention, are recognized. Despite constitutional guarantees, human rights violations persist.<sup>21</sup>

Military rule has had a destabilizing effect on human rights protection. Military regimes have promulgated draconian decrees, ousted court jurisdictions and committed atrocities. The regimes of Generals Aguiyi Ironsi, Yakubu Gowon, Murtala Mohammed, Olusegun Obasanjo, Mohammadu Buhari, Ibrahim Babangida and Sani Abacha were notorious for human rights abuses. Under civilian rule, human rights records have been mixed. Democratic governments have generally performed better than military regimes, but violations persist. Political intolerance, unlawful detention and restriction of movement have occurred. The cases of Chike Obi and Williams vs. Majekodunmi illustrate these infractions. Nigeria has ratified major international human rights instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the African Charter on Human Rights. The National Human Rights Commission was established in 1996. Despite these efforts, human rights challenges persist. The gap between declaration and practice remains significant. Military rule and authoritarianism have undermined

human rights protection. Nigeria's human rights journey highlights the need for sustained commitment to democratic governance, institutional strengthening and education. Human rights promotion and protection require collaborative efforts from governments, civil society and individuals. Nigeria's experience underscores the importance of constitutional guarantees, institutional mechanisms and international cooperation in advancing human rights. The country's complex history, cultural diversity and political dynamics continue to shape human rights discourse. Addressing ongoing challenges and consolidating gains requires nuanced understanding and context-specific approaches. Ultimately, Nigeria's human rights trajectory emphasizes the imperative of sustained vigilance, advocacy and collective action to ensure meaningful enjoyment of fundamental rights and freedoms for all citizens.<sup>22</sup>

Nigeria's human rights landscape is intricately tied to its socio-political fabric, requiring context-specific solutions. Traditional societies recognized individual rights, evidenced by customary laws and governance systems like the Benin Empire and Sokoto Sultanate. Colonialism disrupted this trajectory, imposing authoritarian rule and denying basic rights. The legacy of colonialism persists, with ongoing human rights violations. Military rule has significantly undermined protection mechanisms, while civilian governments have mixed records. Ratification of international instruments and establishment of the National Human Rights Commission are positive steps. However, implementation gaps persist, underscoring the need for sustained commitment to democratic governance, institutional strengthening and education. Collaborative efforts

from governments, civil society and individuals are crucial. Nigeria's experience highlights the importance of constitutional guarantees, institutional mechanisms and international cooperation. Context-specific approaches addressing ongoing challenges are necessary. Key challenges include impunity, corruption and insecurity, exacerbating human rights issues. Addressing these requires strengthened institutions, accountability and transparency. Effective implementation of human rights instruments, like the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and African Charter on Human Rights, is essential. Civil society organizations play vital roles in advocacy and monitoring, ensuring government accountability. International cooperation and support are necessary for capacity building and technical assistance. Nigeria's human rights journey underscores the imperative of sustained vigilance, advocacy and collective action.<sup>23</sup>

Nigeria's human rights discourse must consider the complex interplay between culture, religion and politics. Traditional practices, such as early marriage and female genital mutilation, raise concerns about women's rights. Religious tensions and conflicts exacerbate human rights issues, particularly in the north. The role of civil society organizations cannot be overstated. Groups like Amnesty International Nigeria, Human Rights Watch and the National Human Rights Commission advocate tirelessly for human rights protections. Their efforts focus on education, awareness and accountability. Effective justice systems are crucial. Strengthening judicial independence ensures impartiality and accountability for human rights abuses. Police reform and community policing initiatives address concerns around arbitrary detention and brutality. Economic

and social rights are equally essential. Access to healthcare, education and social security remain significant challenges. Addressing poverty and inequality through sustainable development programs promotes human dignity.<sup>24</sup>

International cooperation supports Nigeria's human rights efforts. Partnerships with organizations like the United Nations Development Programme and European Union enhance capacity building and technical assistance. Youth engagement is vital. Empowering young people through education and participation fosters a culture of human rights awareness and advocacy. Addressing displacement and migration issues resulting from conflict and environmental degradation requires comprehensive approaches. Environmental rights are increasingly significant. The impact of pollution, deforestation and climate change on human rights underscores the need for sustainable practices. Nigeria's human rights advancement requires addressing regional disparities and inequalities. The north-south divide persists, with varying levels of economic development, education and healthcare access. Bridging this gap ensures equitable distribution of resources. The role of traditional leaders and community elders is significant. Leveraging their influence promotes cultural sensitivity and acceptance of human rights principles. Nigeria's anti-corruption efforts impact human rights. Combatting corruption ensures accountability, transparency and effective resource allocation. Human rights education integrates into school curricula, fostering awareness among future generations. Media freedom and independence enable critical reporting on human rights issues. International human rights instruments guide Nigeria's policies.

Effective implementation remains crucial. Collaboration between government agencies, civil society and international partners strengthens human rights protections. Empowering marginalized groups, including women, children and persons with disabilities, ensures inclusive development. Environmental sustainability initiatives address ecological degradation. Addressing urbanization challenges ensures access to basic services. Healthcare reform prioritizes access to quality services.<sup>25</sup>

Nigeria's human rights journey underscores the importance of sustained commitment. Amnesty International plays a pivotal role in advancing Nigeria's human rights objectives. Through rigorous research and advocacy, Amnesty International sheds light on human rights abuses, pushing policymakers to enact reforms. Their reports detail violations, providing credible evidence for accountability. Amnesty International's campaigns mobilize public support, amplifying voices demanding justice and human rights protections. Collaborations with local organizations strengthen grassroots movements, empowering Nigerians to claim their rights. Amnesty International's expertise informs policy debates, guiding lawmakers toward rights-respecting legislation. Their lobbying efforts secure commitments from Nigerian authorities, yielding tangible improvements. The organization's focus on justice and accountability ensures perpetrators face consequences, ending impunity. Amnesty International supports victims, advocating for reparations and rehabilitation. Through education and awareness initiatives, Amnesty International fosters a culture of human rights awareness, equipping Nigerians with knowledge to demand their rights. Amnesty International's international

influence leverages global pressure, compelling Nigerian authorities to uphold human rights standards. Their dedication to truth and justice underscores Nigeria's progress toward human rights protections.<sup>26</sup>

Amnesty International's strategic advocacy has significantly influenced Nigeria's human rights landscape. By leveraging international mechanisms, they pressurize governments to honor commitments. Amnesty's reports and campaigns humanize victims' stories, mobilizing global solidarity. Amnesty International's partnership with local organizations amplifies indigenous voices, fostering collaborative advocacy. Capacity-building initiatives enhance local activists' effectiveness, ensuring sustainability. Addressing Nigeria's complex conflicts, Amnesty International promotes dialogue and reconciliation. Their research informs policy recommendations, guiding decision-makers toward rights-respecting solutions. Amnesty International's emphasis on economic, social and cultural rights highlights Nigeria's development gaps. Advocacy efforts prioritize access to healthcare, education and social security. Through targeted campaigns, Amnesty International tackles entrenched issues like gender-based violence and discrimination. Empowering marginalized groups, they champion inclusive rights. Amnesty's engagement with Nigerian authorities encourages accountability and transparency. Constructive dialogue fosters improved human rights governance. By shedding light on human rights abuses, Amnesty International safeguards Nigeria's vulnerable populations. Urgent interventions protect individuals at risk. Amnesty International's educational initiatives cultivate rights-aware citizens, empowering future

generations. Amnesty International's tireless efforts have significantly advanced Nigeria's human rights agenda, focusing on justice, equality and dignity. By investigating and documenting human rights abuses, Amnesty International provides critical evidence for accountability and reform. Amnesty International's campaigns have mobilized Nigerians to demand rights-respecting policies and practices. Their advocacy has yielded significant gains, including improved protections for women, children and marginalized groups. Through strategic partnerships, Amnesty International supports local organizations, empowering them to drive human rights change. Capacity-building initiatives enhance advocacy skills, ensuring sustained progress. Amnesty International's research and analysis inform policy debates, guiding lawmakers toward rights-respecting legislation. Their expertise shapes Nigeria's human rights discourse. The organization's commitment to transparency and accountability ensures those responsible for human rights abuses face justice. Amnesty International's advocacy protects victims' rights. Education and awareness initiatives empower Nigerians to claim their rights.<sup>27</sup>

Amnesty International fosters a culture of human rights awareness. Amnesty International's global influence leverages international pressure, compelling Nigerian authorities to uphold human rights standards. Amnesty International's impactful interventions in Nigeria have redefined the human rights landscape, championing the rights of marginalized communities and individuals. By exposing human rights abuses and impunity, Amnesty International prompts policy reforms and accountability. Amnesty International's dedicated research and advocacy have led to significant

advancements in Nigeria's human rights protections. Their efforts prioritize justice, equality and dignity, influencing policymakers and shaping public discourse. Through grassroots engagement and community empowerment, Amnesty International fosters a culture of human rights awareness, equipping Nigerians to demand their rights. Strategic partnerships with local organizations amplify indigenous voices. Amnesty International's global influence mobilizes international support, pressuring Nigerian authorities to uphold human rights standards. Diplomatic engagement and collaborative advocacy ensure sustainable progress. Addressing Nigeria's complex challenges, Amnesty International promotes holistic approaches, integrating economic, social and cultural rights. Their expertise informs policy recommendations. Education and awareness initiatives empower future generations, cultivating rights-aware citizens. Amnesty International's commitment ensures Nigeria's human rights journey remains on track.<sup>28</sup>

### **Aim and Objectives**

The aim of this project work is to highlight the role of Amnesty International in the promotion and protection of human right activities in Nigeria from 1967- 2009. The specific objectives of the project are:

1. To examine the history and evolution of Amnesty International in Nigeria.
2. To analyze the impact of Amnesty International's work in promoting human rights in Nigeria.

3. To investigate the challenges and controversies surrounding the Amnesty Programme.
4. To assess the effectiveness of Amnesty International's campaigns and advocacy efforts.

### **Scope of The Study**

This study focuses on Amnesty International's activities in Nigeria from 1967 to 2009. The year 1967 marks the beginning of Amnesty International's involvement in Nigeria, coinciding with the outbreak of the Nigerian Civil War, which drew international attention to human rights abuses in the country. The civil war presented a critical juncture for human rights advocacy, making 1967 a logical starting point. The study concludes in 2009, a year that witnessed significant developments in Nigeria's human rights landscape, including the escalation of the Boko Haram insurgency and heightened international scrutiny of Nigeria's human rights record. Ending in 2009 allows for an assessment of Amnesty International's impact during this critical period. The five pivotal events in this timeframe are:

1. The Nigerian Civil War of 1967-1970.
2. Amnesty International monitored the Presidential Amnesty Programme in 1969.
3. The organization launched its Anti-Torture Campaign in 1978.
4. Amnesty International intensified advocacy against military rule and human rights abuses during Nigeria's transition to democracy from the 1990s to 1999.

5. publication of Amnesty International's landmark report, "Nigeria: Petroleum, Pollution and Poverty in the Niger Delta" in 2009 highlighting environmental and human rights concerns.

## **Methodology**

The primary and secondary sources would be used in gathering relevant information in this research work.

## **Primary Sources**

This will include the utilization of archival materials, oral interviews and others which constitutes the primary sources.

## **Secondary Sources**

This will include textbooks, articles in journals, newspapers, articles from official websites and blogs or the internet.

## **Literature Review**

Amnesty International's role in promoting human rights has been extensively studied. Tom Buchanan, "A History of Amnesty International" provides an insight on Amnesty International's founding and evolution. Established in 1961, Amnesty International marked a significant turning point in global human rights advocacy. Buchanan explores the organization's growth, strategies, and impact on human rights

worldwide. Buchanan's work highlights Amnesty International's global impact, this research is needed to explore how the organization's strategies have adapted to Nigeria's unique cultural and political context, particularly in addressing human rights violations during the Biafran War, 1967-1970.<sup>29</sup> T. Falola, and M. Heaton, "A History of Nigeria" offer valuable insights into Nigeria's post-colonial history and human rights challenges. The authors examine Nigeria's complex political landscape, economic struggles, and social tensions, providing context for understanding human rights issues. Building on Falola and Heaton's work, this research would investigate how Nigeria's historical experiences with colonialism and military rule have influenced the country's human rights discourse and Amnesty International's interventions.<sup>30</sup> O. Fakunle, "Human Rights in Nigeria" examines Nigeria's human rights situation, highlighting complexities and challenges. Fakunle discusses issues such as torture, enforced disappearances, and extrajudicial killings, and assesses efforts to address these abuses. Fakunle's work primarily focuses on state-perpetrated human rights abuses. However, this investigation is required to explore the role of non-state actors, such as Boko Haram, in human rights violations and Amnesty International's responses to these challenges.<sup>31</sup>

A. O. Oyinlola, "Amnesty International's Role in Promoting Human Rights in Nigeria" examines Amnesty International's efforts in promoting human rights in Nigeria. He discusses the organization's research, advocacy, and campaign strategies. Oyinlola's work highlights Amnesty International's impact, this research is needed to investigate the effectiveness of the organization's partnerships with local Nigerian NGOs in enhancing

human rights protection.<sup>32</sup> O. A. Ojo, "Human Rights Protection in Nigeria" explores human rights protection mechanisms in Nigeria. He analyzes the role of national and international organizations, including Amnesty International. Ojo's work primarily focuses on legal frameworks. However, this investigation is required to explore the cultural and social factors influencing human rights protection in Nigeria and Amnesty International's responses.<sup>33</sup> Obi, C. "The Niger Delta Crisis" examines the Niger Delta crisis, including human rights abuses and environmental degradation. He discusses the roles of government, corporations, and civil society. Building on Obi's work, this research would investigate how Amnesty International's interventions in the Niger Delta have addressed the intersectionality of human rights and environmental issues.<sup>34</sup>

S. Agbakwa, in his journal article, "Amnesty International and Human Rights in Africa" evaluates Amnesty International's impact on human rights in Africa, highlighting successes and challenges. This research would explore how Amnesty International's Africa-focused initiatives address regional human rights concerns.<sup>35</sup> Udombana, N. in his journal, "Amnesty International's Role in Promoting Human Rights in Nigeria" examines Amnesty International's strategies in promoting human rights in Nigeria. This research could investigate the effectiveness of Amnesty International's partnerships with local Nigerian NGOs.<sup>36</sup> Anafi, F. in her journal article, "Human Rights Protection in Nigeria: Challenges and Prospects" discusses human rights protection mechanisms in Nigeria and potential solutions. This investigation is needed to explore cultural and social factors influencing human rights protection.<sup>37</sup> C. Okoro, in his journal article, "Amnesty

International and the Niger Delta Crisis" analyzes Amnesty International's responses to the Niger Delta crisis. This research would explore intersectionality of human rights and environmental issues.<sup>38</sup>

## **Conclusion**

This research work seeks to fill the gaps in existing literature by providing a comprehensive analysis of Amnesty International's role in promoting and protecting human rights in Nigeria from 1967 to 2009, a period marked by significant human rights challenges. The study aims to address the limitations of previous research, which have largely focused on general human rights issues in Nigeria.

## **Chapterization**

### **Chapter One: Background to The Study**

This chapter introduces the research work, providing the background to the study, aim and objectives, scope of the study, methodology and literature review.

### **Chapter Two: Historical Context and Amnesty International's Involvement in Nigeria**

This chapter explores Nigeria's post-colonial history, human rights challenges and Amnesty International's founding, global mandate and establishment in Nigeria.

### **Chapter Three: Amnesty International's Strategies for Promoting Human Rights in Nigeria**

Chapter three examines the strategies of Amnesty International for promoting human rights in Nigeria.

### **Chapter Four: Impact and Challenges of Amnesty International's Work in Nigeria**

This chapter assesses Amnesty International's impact, successes and challenges in Nigeria, including governmental responses and national policy changes.

### **Chapter Five: Conclusion**

This is the final chapter which summarizes the entire research work.

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## CHAPTER TWO

### HISTORICAL CONTEXT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S INVOLVEMENT IN NIGERIA

#### **Introduction**

Amnesty International has a long and complex history of involvement in Nigerian affairs, dating back to the 1960s. The organization's early work in Nigeria focused on documenting and exposing human rights abuses committed by the government and security forces, particularly during the Biafran War.<sup>1</sup> Since then, Amnesty International has continued to play a crucial role in promoting and protecting human rights in Nigeria, working tirelessly to hold the government and other actors accountable for their actions. Despite the challenges it has faced, Amnesty International has remained committed to its mission of promoting human rights and social justice in Nigeria. The organization has worked closely with local human rights groups, community leaders, and other stakeholders to document and expose human rights abuses, provide support and solidarity to victims and their families, and advocate for policy changes and reforms to protect human rights.<sup>2</sup>

One of the major challenges facing Amnesty International in Nigeria is the lack of accountability and transparency in government institutions. Corruption, impunity, and a culture of silence have hindered efforts to promote human rights and social justice in the country. Additionally, the organization has faced resistance and hostility from

government officials and security forces, who have often viewed Amnesty International's work as a threat to their power and interests. Despite these challenges, there are also opportunities for Amnesty International to make a positive impact in Nigeria. The organization's work has helped to raise awareness about human rights issues in the country, and has contributed to efforts to promote accountability and transparency in government institutions. Additionally, Amnesty International's advocacy efforts have helped to bring about policy changes and reforms, such as the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission and the passage of the Freedom of Information Act.<sup>3</sup>

In recent years, Amnesty International has continued to play a critical role in promoting human rights and social justice in Nigeria. The organization has worked to expose human rights abuses committed by the government and security forces, particularly in the context of the Boko Haram insurgency. Amnesty International has also advocated for the rights of marginalized communities, including women, children, and indigenous peoples. This research examines the history of Amnesty International's involvement in Nigerian affairs, highlighting the challenges and opportunities that the organization has faced in its efforts to promote human rights and social justice in the country. The essay also analyzes the impact of Amnesty International's work in Nigeria, and explore the ways in which the organization can continue to make a positive difference in the country. Nigeria has a complex and challenging human rights

environment. The country's colonial past, the impact of military rule, and the transition to democracy have all had a significant impact on the state of human rights in Nigeria.<sup>4</sup>

During the colonial period, Nigeria was subject to British rule, which was characterized by exploitation, oppression, and violence. The colonial authorities imposed their own systems of law and governance on Nigeria, which often conflicted with traditional systems of justice and governance. After Nigeria gained independence in 1960, the country was plagued by a series of military coups and dictatorships. These regimes were characterized by widespread human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings, torture, and enforced disappearances.<sup>5</sup>

In 1999, Nigeria transitioned to democracy, with the election of President Olusegun Obasanjo. However, despite this transition, human rights abuses have continued to be a major problem in Nigeria. Amnesty International has been involved in Nigeria since the 1960s, with a focus on promoting human rights and holding perpetrators of human rights abuses accountable.<sup>6</sup>

The organization has conducted extensive research and reporting on human rights issues in Nigeria, including the use of excessive force by security forces, torture, and other forms of ill-treatment. Amnesty International has also been advocating for the Nigerian government to take steps to address human rights abuses, including by investigating and prosecuting perpetrators, and by providing reparations to victims. Despite the challenges, there are also opportunities for progress on human rights in

Nigeria. The Nigerian government has taken some steps to address human rights abuses, including establishing a national Human Rights Commission and by signing onto international human rights treaties.<sup>7</sup>

However, much more needs to be done to address the widespread human rights abuses that continue to occur in Nigeria. Amnesty International and other organizations will continue to advocate for the Nigerian government to take steps to address human rights abuses, and to promote human rights and the rule of law in Nigeria.<sup>8</sup>

### **A Brief History of Amnesty International's Intervention in Nigeria: A Critical Examination**

Amnesty International, a globally acclaimed human rights organization, has been actively engaged in Nigeria since 1967. This chapter provides an in-depth analysis of Amnesty International's interventions and operations in Nigeria from 1967 to 2009. Amnesty International's involvement in Nigeria can be traced back to the 1967 civil war. During this period, the organization launched a series of campaigns to raise awareness about human rights abuses committed by both the Nigerian government and the Biafran separatists. These campaigns involved letter-writing, lobbying, and public demonstrations, which helped to mobilize international opinion against human rights abuses in Nigeria.<sup>9</sup> In the 1980s, Amnesty International intensified its campaigns against human rights abuses in Nigeria. The organization's reports and campaigns focused on issues such as extrajudicial killings, torture, and enforced disappearances. Amnesty International also

provided support to Nigerian human rights activists and organizations, which helped to strengthen the country's human rights movement.<sup>10</sup>

One of the key strategies employed by Amnesty International in Nigeria is the use of targeted campaigns. These campaigns involve the use of various communication channels, including social media, to raise awareness about specific human rights issues. For example, Amnesty International launched a campaign to raise awareness about the Nigerian government's crackdown on freedom of expression. The campaign involved the use of social media hashtags, public demonstrations, and lobbying of government officials. Amnesty International has also employed the strategy of "naming and shaming" to hold human rights abusers accountable. This strategy involves publicly condemning human rights abuses and identifying those responsible. For example, Amnesty International publicly condemned the Nigerian military's use of torture and other forms of ill-treatment against civilians. The organization also called for those responsible to be held accountable. In addition to these strategies, Amnesty International has also provided human rights education and training to Nigerian citizens. This has involved the provision of training manuals, workshops, and other educational materials. The organization has also worked with Nigerian schools to incorporate human rights education into the curriculum.<sup>11</sup>

Amnesty International's interventions in Nigeria have had a significant impact on the country's human rights landscape. The organization's campaigns and reports have

helped to raise awareness about human rights abuses and have put pressure on the Nigerian government to take action to address these abuses. Additionally, Amnesty International's support for Nigerian human rights activists and organizations has helped to strengthen the country's human rights movement. However, despite these successes, Amnesty International's interventions in Nigeria have not been without challenges. The organization has faced opposition from the Nigerian government, which has accused Amnesty International of interfering in the country's internal affairs. Additionally, Amnesty International has faced challenges in terms of funding and resources, which has limited the organization's ability to carry out its work in Nigeria.<sup>12</sup>

Amnesty International's interventions in Nigeria have had a significant impact on the country's human rights landscape. Despite the challenges faced by Amnesty International in Nigeria, the organization remains committed to promoting and protecting human rights in the country.<sup>13</sup>

### **Amnesty International's Operations in Nigeria**

Amnesty International's operations in Nigeria have been guided by its mission to promote and protect human rights. The organization has employed a range of strategies to achieve this goal, including research and reporting, campaigning, and lobbying. One of the key areas of focus for Amnesty International in Nigeria has been the issue of extrajudicial killings.<sup>14</sup> The organization has documented numerous cases of extrajudicial killings by the Nigerian security forces, particularly in the context of the Boko Haram

insurgency. Amnesty International has called on the Nigerian government to take steps to prevent extrajudicial killings and to hold those responsible accountable.<sup>15</sup>

Another area of focus for Amnesty International in Nigeria has been the issue of torture and other forms of ill-treatment. The organization has documented numerous cases of torture and other forms of ill-treatment by the Nigerian security forces, particularly in the context of the Boko Haram insurgency. Amnesty International has called on the Nigerian government to take steps to prevent torture and other forms of ill-treatment and to hold those responsible accountable.<sup>16</sup> Amnesty International has also been involved in campaigning for the rights of marginalized groups in Nigeria, including women and children. The organization has documented numerous cases of human rights abuses against women and children in Nigeria, including forced marriage, female genital mutilation, and child labor. Amnesty International has called on the Nigerian government to take steps to protect the rights of women and children and to hold those responsible for human rights abuses accountable. In addition to its research and campaigning work, Amnesty International has also been involved in providing support to human rights defenders in Nigeria. The organization has provided training and capacity-building programs for human rights defenders, as well as support for their advocacy and campaigning work.<sup>17</sup>

Despite its successes, Amnesty International has faced a number of challenges in its work in Nigeria. One of the key challenges has been the lack of cooperation from the

Nigerian government. The government has often been resistant to Amnesty International's criticisms and recommendations, and has accused the organization of interfering in Nigeria's internal affairs.<sup>18</sup>

### **Amnesty International's Operations in Nigeria**

In Nigeria, Amnesty International's work in the 1990s focused on the military dictatorship of General Sani Abacha, who seized power in 1993. The organization documented human rights abuses committed by the military, including torture, extrajudicial killings, and enforced disappearances. Amnesty International also worked to promote accountability and justice, advocating for the establishment of independent investigation mechanisms to probe human rights abuses. Furthermore, the organization provided support to local human rights organizations and community groups, helping to build their capacity to document and report human rights abuses. The 2000s saw Amnesty International's work in Africa continue to focus on human rights abuses committed by governments, including the conflict in Darfur, Sudan, which resulted in the deaths of an estimated 300,000 people. The organization campaigned for international intervention to stop the conflict and for accountability for those responsible. This involved working closely with local human rights organizations, community groups, and individuals to gather information and build cases against those responsible for human rights abuses. Amnesty International also advocated for the establishment of the

International Criminal Court, which was set up to prosecute those responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.<sup>19</sup>

In Nigeria, Amnesty International's work in the 2000s focused on the human rights impacts of the oil industry in the Niger Delta. The organization documented human rights abuses committed by the Nigerian government and oil companies, including Shell and Chevron, including pollution, forced displacement, and violence against local communities. Throughout its operations in Africa and Nigeria from 1960 to 2009, Amnesty International has worked closely with local human rights organizations, community groups, and individuals to promote human rights and hold governments and corporations accountable for their actions. The organization's work has helped to raise awareness about human rights abuses, mobilize public opinion, and push for policy changes to protect human rights. Amnesty International's commitment to promoting human rights and accountability in Africa and Nigeria remains unwavering, and the organization continues to work tirelessly to promote justice, equality, and human dignity for all individuals in the region.<sup>20</sup>

## **Conclusion**

Amnesty International's work in Nigeria has had a profound impact on the country's human rights landscape. Through its tireless efforts, the organization has helped to expose human rights abuses, hold those responsible accountable, and promote a culture of human rights in Nigeria. The significance of Amnesty International's work in Nigeria

cannot be overstated. The organization's research and reporting have helped to shed light on some of the most pressing human rights issues in the country, including extrajudicial killings, torture, and forced disappearances. By documenting these abuses and advocating for justice and accountability, Amnesty International has helped to bring about positive change in Nigeria.

Furthermore, Amnesty International's work in Nigeria has helped to empower local human rights activists and organizations. By providing training, support, and resources, the organization has helped to build a strong and vibrant human rights movement in Nigeria. This movement has been instrumental in promoting human rights and holding the government accountable for its actions. Despite the many challenges that lie ahead, Amnesty International remains committed to promoting and protecting human rights in Nigeria. The organization will continue to work tirelessly to expose human rights abuses, advocate for justice and accountability, and promote a culture of human rights in Nigeria. In the end, Amnesty International's work in Nigeria is a testament to the power of human rights activism. Through its unwavering commitment to justice and human dignity, the organization has helped to bring about positive change in Nigeria and promote a more just and equitable society for all. As Amnesty International continues its vital work in Nigeria, it is essential that the organization receives the support and resources it needs to carry out its mission. The international community must also continue to hold the Nigerian government accountable for its human rights obligations and support the efforts of local human rights activists and organizations.

Ultimately, the promotion and protection of human rights in Nigeria require a collective effort from all stakeholders. Amnesty International's work in Nigeria is a crucial part of this effort, and the organization will continue to play a vital role in promoting justice, human dignity, and human rights in Nigeria.

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**CHAPTER THREE**

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S STRATEGIES FOR PROMOTING HUMAN  
RIGHTS IN NIGERIA**

**Introduction**

Amnesty International implements a diversified approach to promote and safeguard basic rights in Nigeria. The organization's methods are intentionally designed to sway policymakers, increase awareness about human rights issues, and reinforce local groups in their efforts to protect human rights.<sup>1</sup> One of the primary tactics employed by Amnesty International is the initiation of correspondence campaigns. This strategy involves coordinating personalized letters to government officials and policymakers, signed by members and supporters.<sup>2</sup>

Amnesty International also provides support to groups organizing peaceful protests to highlight human rights concerns. This backing enhances the efforts of local groups pursuing human rights objectives, such as the promotion of freedom of expression and protection against government mistreatment. The organization utilizes various communication channels, including mass media and news outlets, to inform authorities about human rights concerns and offer recommendations. These campaigns aim to

provide relevant information for informed decision-making, rather than exerting pressure on governments.<sup>3</sup>

Amnesty International provides training and capacity-building programs for local groups to enhance their ability to promote and protect human rights. This training encompasses education and vocational skills acquisition, enabling local organizations to effectively advocate for human rights. The organization recognizes the importance of educating citizens about their fundamental rights and freedoms. Amnesty International provides platforms for citizens to access information about human rights, including reporting human rights abuses and violations.<sup>4</sup>

Amnesty International employs lobbying as a deliberate and systematic approach to influence policymakers to support human rights causes. The establishment of its office in Abuja marked the organization's inaugural lobbying effort in Nigeria. The organization also utilizes "naming and shaming" tactics to discredit and hold accountable human rights abusers. This approach involves public condemnation of human rights abuses, as exemplified by Amnesty International's call for the Nigerian Military to investigate allegations of torture and the Nigerian authorities to investigate the deaths of three Islamic Movement in Nigeria members.<sup>5</sup>

These strategies underscore Amnesty International's commitment to promoting and protecting human rights in Nigeria. By employing a range of tactics, the organization seeks to influence policymakers, increase awareness about human rights concerns, and

reinforce local groups in their efforts to protect human rights. Amnesty International's work in Nigeria is informed by a nuanced understanding of the country's complex human rights challenges. The organization's research and reporting have helped to expose human rights abuses, and its advocacy and campaigning efforts have contributed to positive changes in government policies and practices. Despite the challenges it faces, Amnesty International remains resolute in its commitment to promoting and protecting human rights in Nigeria. The organization will continue to work tirelessly to expose human rights abuses, advocate for justice and accountability, and promote a culture of human rights in Nigeria.<sup>6</sup>

Amnesty International's involvement in Nigeria has been pivotal in illuminating human rights transgressions and championing the rights of vulnerable populations. The organization's investigative endeavors and reporting have been indispensable in exposing human rights abuses, and its advocacy and campaigning efforts have contributed to positive transformations in government policies and practices. One of the primary focal areas for Amnesty International in Nigeria is the safeguarding of human rights advocates. The organization has worked assiduously to support human rights defenders who are at risk of persecution, harassment, or intimidation. Amnesty International has also championed the protection of human rights defenders who are working to promote and safeguard the rights of vulnerable populations.<sup>7</sup>

Amnesty International has also been vocal in its censure of human rights abuses perpetrated by the Nigerian military. The organization has documented numerous instances of human rights abuses, including torture, extrajudicial executions, and enforced disappearances. Amnesty International has urged the Nigerian government to investigate these abuses and to hold those responsible accountable. In addition to its work on human rights abuses, Amnesty International has also been working to promote socioeconomic and cultural rights in Nigeria. The organization has championed the rights of vulnerable populations, including the rights of women, children, and individuals living with disabilities.<sup>8</sup>

Amnesty International's work in Nigeria is guided by its commitment to promoting and safeguarding human rights. The organization's strategies are designed to address the complex human rights challenges facing Nigeria, and to support the efforts of local human rights advocates. Through its work in Nigeria, Amnesty International aims to promote a culture of human rights and to support the development of a more just and equitable society. The organization's commitment to promoting and safeguarding human rights in Nigeria is unwavering, and it will continue to work tirelessly to champion the rights of vulnerable populations and to hold those responsible for human rights abuses accountable.<sup>9</sup>

## **Amnesty International's Initiatives in Uncovering Human Rights Violations in Nigeria**

Amnesty International has played a pivotal role in shedding light on human rights abuses and advocating for the rights of marginalized communities in Nigeria. The organization's endeavors have been instrumental in exposing human rights transgressions, and its advocacy and campaigning efforts have contributed to positive transformations in government policies and practices.<sup>10</sup> Amnesty International's efforts in Nigeria have focused on promoting and protecting human rights, with a particular emphasis on supporting human rights defenders who are at risk of persecution, harassment, or intimidation. The organization has also been vocal in its condemnation of human rights abuses committed by the Nigerian government and other actors.<sup>11</sup>

The organization's efforts have focused on supporting human rights defenders who are at risk of persecution, harassment, or intimidation. Amnesty International has also been vocal in its condemnation of human rights abuses committed by the Nigerian government and other actors.<sup>12</sup>

The organization's initiatives have been instrumental in promoting human rights awareness and education in Nigeria. Amnesty International has worked with local human rights organizations and community groups to promote human rights awareness and education, particularly in rural and marginalized communities.<sup>13</sup>

Amnesty International's efforts have also focused on supporting the rights of marginalized communities in Nigeria, including women, children, and people living with disabilities. The organization has worked to promote the rights of these communities and

to address the human rights abuses they face. The organization's initiatives have been instrumental in promoting justice and accountability in Nigeria. Amnesty International has worked to promote justice and accountability for human rights abuses, and to support the efforts of local human rights defenders.<sup>14</sup>

### **The Advocacy and Campaigns of Amnesty International for Mobilizing Public Support for Human Rights in Nigeria**

Amnesty International has been at the forefront of advocating for human rights in Nigeria, mobilizing public support through various campaigns and initiatives. The organization has utilized a range of strategies to raise awareness about human rights issues in Nigeria, including the use of social media, public demonstrations, and collaborative efforts with local human rights groups.<sup>15</sup> Through its campaigns, Amnesty International has sought to mobilize public opinion and pressure the Nigerian government to take action to address human rights abuses. The organization has also worked to empower local communities and human rights defenders, providing them with the tools and support needed to advocate for their rights.<sup>16</sup>

Amnesty International's advocacy and campaigns in Nigeria have been guided by a commitment to promoting and protecting human rights. The organization has worked tirelessly to raise awareness about human rights issues in Nigeria, and to push for policy changes to address these issues.<sup>17</sup> Through its campaigns, Amnesty International has sought to mobilize public opinion and pressure the Nigerian government to take action to

address human rights abuses. One of the key ways in which Amnesty International has mobilized public support for human rights in Nigeria is through the use of social media. The organization has utilized platforms such as Twitter and Facebook to raise awareness about human rights issues in Nigeria, and to mobilize public support for its campaigns. For example, Amnesty International has used social media to raise awareness about the plight of human rights defenders in Nigeria, who are often subject to persecution and violence.<sup>18</sup>

In addition to its use of social media, Amnesty International has also organized public demonstrations and rallies to raise awareness about human rights issues in Nigeria. For example, the organization has organized demonstrations outside the Nigerian embassy in London, to raise awareness about human rights abuses in Nigeria. These demonstrations have helped to raise awareness about human rights issues in Nigeria, and to mobilize public support for Amnesty International's campaigns.<sup>19</sup> Amnesty International has also worked collaboratively with local human rights groups in Nigeria, to promote human rights and address human rights abuses. For example, the organization has worked with the Nigerian human rights group, the Civil Liberties Organization, to promote human rights and address human rights abuses in Nigeria. This collaborative approach has helped to strengthen the human rights movement in Nigeria, and to promote human rights and address human rights abuses.<sup>20</sup>

Furthermore, Amnesty International has also worked to empower local communities and human rights defenders in Nigeria, providing them with the tools and support needed to advocate for their rights. For example, the organization has provided training and support to human rights defenders in Nigeria, to help them to advocate more effectively for human rights. This approach has helped to build the capacity of local human rights defenders in Nigeria, and to promote human rights and address human rights abuses.<sup>21</sup>

## **Conclusion**

Amnesty International's advocacy and campaigns in Nigeria have been guided by a commitment to promoting and protecting human rights. The organization has worked tirelessly to raise awareness about human rights issues in Nigeria, and to push for policy changes to address these issues. Through its campaigns, Amnesty International has sought to mobilize public opinion and pressure the Nigerian government to take action to address human rights abuses. The organization's use of social media, public demonstrations, and collaborative efforts with local human rights groups have all helped to promote human rights and address human rights abuses in Nigeria.

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## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **IMPACT AND CHALLENGES OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S WORK IN NIGERIA**

#### **Introduction**

Amnesty International's work in Nigeria has had a profound impact on the country's human rights landscape. The organization's efforts have contributed significantly to the promotion and protection of human rights, particularly in the areas of freedom of expression, association, and assembly. One of the key challenges facing Amnesty International in Nigeria is the country's complex and often volatile political environment. The organization has faced opposition from government officials and security agencies, who have often accused Amnesty International of meddling in Nigeria's internal affairs.<sup>1</sup>

Despite these challenges, Amnesty International has continued to work tirelessly to promote human rights in Nigeria. The organization's research and advocacy efforts have helped to expose human rights abuses and push for accountability. Amnesty

International's work in Nigeria has also focused on promoting economic, social, and cultural rights. The organization has worked to address issues such as poverty, inequality, and access to education and healthcare.<sup>2</sup>

In recent years, Amnesty International has also been working to address the issue of human rights abuses by security agencies in Nigeria. The organization has documented numerous cases of torture, extrajudicial killings, and enforced disappearances, and has called on the Nigerian government to take action to address these abuses. Amnesty International's work in Nigeria has not gone unnoticed. The organization has received recognition and accolades from various stakeholders, including human rights organizations, civil society groups, and government officials.<sup>3</sup>

However, despite the progress made, there is still much work to be done. Amnesty International continues to face challenges in its work in Nigeria, including limited resources, security concerns, and opposition from government officials. The organization's work in Nigeria is guided by its mandate to promote and protect human rights, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments. Amnesty International's work in Nigeria is focused on promoting human rights for all, regardless of their background, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status. One of the key areas of focus for Amnesty International in Nigeria is the promotion of freedom of expression, association, and assembly. The organization

has worked to address issues such as censorship, harassment of journalists, and restrictions on peaceful assembly.<sup>4</sup>

Amnesty International has also worked to promote economic, social, and cultural rights in Nigeria. The organization has addressed issues such as poverty, inequality, and access to education and healthcare. Amnesty International has also worked to promote the rights of marginalized groups, including women, children, and minorities. In addition to its research and advocacy work, Amnesty International has also provided support to human rights defenders and activists in Nigeria. The organization has provided training and capacity-building programs for human rights defenders, as well as support for their advocacy efforts. Amnesty International's work in Nigeria has been recognized and commended by various stakeholders. The organization has received awards and accolades from human rights organizations, civil society groups, and government officials.<sup>5</sup>

However, despite the progress made, there is still much work to be done. Amnesty International continues to face challenges in its work in Nigeria, including limited resources, security concerns, and opposition from government officials. Amnesty International's work in Nigeria has had a profound impact on the country's human rights landscape. The organization's efforts have contributed significantly to the promotion and protection of human rights, particularly in the areas of freedom of expression, association, and assembly.<sup>6</sup>

As Amnesty International continues its work in Nigeria, it is essential that the organization remains committed to its mandate and continues to work tirelessly to promote and protect human rights in the country.<sup>7</sup>

### **Amnesty International's Human Rights Advocacy in Nigeria**

Amnesty International's human rights advocacy in Nigeria has been a cornerstone of the organization's work in the country. For decades, Amnesty International has worked tirelessly to promote and protect human rights in Nigeria, often in the face of significant challenges and obstacles. The organization's human rights advocacy in Nigeria has focused on a range of issues, including freedom of expression, association, and assembly, as well as economic, social, and cultural rights. Amnesty International has also worked to promote the rights of marginalized groups, including women, children, and minorities.<sup>8</sup>

One of the key ways in which Amnesty International has advocated for human rights in Nigeria is through its research and reporting. The organization has published numerous reports on human rights issues in Nigeria, including reports on the use of torture, extrajudicial killings, and enforced disappearances. These reports have helped to shed light on human rights abuses in Nigeria and have been used to push for accountability and justice. In addition to its research and reporting, Amnesty International has also advocated for human rights in Nigeria through its campaigning and advocacy work. The organization has worked with local human rights groups, civil society organizations, and community leaders to push for human rights reforms and to hold the

Nigerian government accountable for its human rights obligations. Amnesty International has also used its international influence to advocate for human rights in Nigeria. The organization has worked with governments, international organizations, and other stakeholders to push for human rights reforms and to hold the Nigerian government accountable for its human rights obligations.<sup>9</sup>

Despite the challenges it has faced, Amnesty International's human rights advocacy in Nigeria has had a significant impact. The organization's work has helped to push for human rights reforms, including the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission and the passage of the Freedom of Information Act. Amnesty International's work has also helped to hold the Nigerian government accountable for its human rights obligations. The organization's reporting and advocacy have helped to push for investigations into human rights abuses and have helped to bring perpetrators to justice. In addition to its work on specific human rights issues, Amnesty International has also worked to promote a culture of human rights in Nigeria. The organization has worked with local schools, community groups, and civil society organizations to promote human rights education and awareness.<sup>10</sup>

Amnesty International has also worked to support human rights defenders in Nigeria. The organization has provided training and support to local human rights groups and has worked to promote their safety and security. Overall, Amnesty International's human rights advocacy in Nigeria has been instrumental in promoting and protecting

human rights in the country. The organization's work has helped to push for human rights reforms, hold the government accountable for its human rights obligations, and promote a culture of human rights. As Amnesty International continues its work in Nigeria, it is essential that the organization remains committed to its mandate and continues to work tirelessly to promote and protect human rights in the country. The organization's work is crucial in ensuring that human rights are respected, protected, and fulfilled in Nigeria.<sup>11</sup>

Amnesty International's human rights advocacy in Nigeria is guided by its commitment to promoting and protecting human rights for all. The organization's work is based on the principles of universality, indivisibility, and interdependence of human rights. The organization's human rights advocacy in Nigeria is also guided by its commitment to impartiality, independence, and neutrality. Amnesty International's work is not influenced by political, economic, or ideological interests, and the organization remains committed to promoting and protecting human rights for all, regardless of their background, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status. Amnesty International's human rights advocacy in Nigeria has been instrumental in promoting and protecting human rights in the country. The organization's work has helped to push for human rights reforms, hold the government accountable for its human rights obligations, and promote a culture of human rights.<sup>12</sup>

### **Challenges Facing Amnesty International's Work in Nigeria**

Amnesty International's endeavors in Nigeria have been met with significant challenges and criticisms, which have impacted the organization's viability in combating human rights abuses. One of the primary criticisms leveled against Amnesty International is the perception that the organization is western-centric, implying that its activities are driven by Western ideologies, particularly regarding human rights. This western-centric perception has led to resistance in various parts of the world, especially in the Middle East and Asia, where Western cultures are often viewed with suspicion. Consequently, Amnesty International's activities in these regions are met with skepticism, resulting in low membership and support.<sup>13</sup>

Another challenge facing Amnesty International in Nigeria is the recurring demand from citizens and government authorities for the organization to leave the country. Amnesty International was accused of being sponsored by the opposition party and taking sides with the nation's enemies. This accusation stemmed from rumors that the organization planned a nationwide protest in collaboration with a coalition of civil society organizations. The protest, tagged "Revolution Now," was scheduled to take place on August 5 across the country. Amnesty International responded by stating that it would not be intimidated and would continue to advocate for human rights and hold the government accountable. Amnesty International faces another challenge in its lack of authoritative capacity. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is not binding on Nigerian laws, limiting Amnesty International's ability to enforce human rights. Instead, the organization can only draw attention to human rights abuses and advocate for change.<sup>14</sup>

The Nigerian government's slow response to human rights abuses often requires Amnesty International to dedicate more time and resources to addressing these issues. The accumulation of such cases can significantly impede Amnesty International's progress. Implementing human rights and maintaining strong institutions is a critical issue that cannot be left solely to governments, as they are often the primary perpetrators of human rights abuses. This highlights the vital role of human rights organizations like Amnesty International. As a specialized institution, Amnesty International is equipped to monitor human rights issues globally. This work has provided insight into Amnesty International's activities in Nigeria, demonstrating the organization's contributions to promoting accountability and human rights in various dimensions, including the right to life, protection against torture, and economic rights.<sup>15</sup>

Despite the challenges and criticisms faced by Amnesty International, its status as a global leader in human rights promotion and protection remains uncontested. The organization's commitment to impartiality, independence, and neutrality has earned it a reputation as a credible and trustworthy advocate for human rights. Amnesty International's work in Nigeria has also been shaped by the country's complex and often volatile political environment. The organization has faced opposition from government officials and security agencies, who have often accused Amnesty International of meddling in Nigeria's internal affairs. Despite these challenges, Amnesty International remains committed to its work in Nigeria. The organization continues to work tirelessly

to promote and protect human rights in the country, often in the face of significant obstacles.<sup>16</sup>

Amnesty International's research and reporting have also helped to inform its advocacy and campaigning work, ensuring that the organization's efforts are targeted and effective. In addition to its research and reporting, Amnesty International has also worked to build partnerships with local human rights groups and civil society organizations. These partnerships have helped to strengthen Amnesty International's work in Nigeria, enabling the organization to reach a wider audience and to have a greater impact. Amnesty International has also worked to engage with the Nigerian government, pushing for human rights reforms and accountability. The organization has met with government officials, submitted reports and recommendations, and advocated for policy changes.<sup>17</sup>

Despite the challenges it faces, Amnesty International remains committed to its work in Nigeria. The organization continues to work tirelessly to promote and protect human rights in the country, often in the face of significant obstacles. Amnesty International's work in Nigeria has been shaped by the country's complex and often volatile political environment. Despite the challenges it faces, the organization remains committed to promoting and protecting human rights in Nigeria. Amnesty International's research and reporting have helped to shed light on human rights abuses in Nigeria, while its partnerships with local human rights groups and civil society organizations have

helped to strengthen its work. The organization's engagement with the Nigerian government has also helped to push for human rights reforms and accountability.<sup>18</sup>

### **Impact of Amnesty International's Interventions on Human Rights in Nigeria**

Amnesty International's interventions in Nigeria have had a profound impact on the country's human rights landscape. Since its inception, Amnesty International has worked tirelessly to promote and protect human rights in Nigeria, often in the face of significant challenges and obstacles. One of the key areas where Amnesty International's interventions have had a significant impact is in the promotion of freedom of expression, association, and assembly. The organization has worked to address issues such as censorship, harassment of journalists, and restrictions on peaceful assembly.<sup>19</sup>

Amnesty International's research and reporting have helped to shed light on human rights abuses in Nigeria, including the use of torture, extrajudicial killings, and enforced disappearances. The organization's reports have been used to push for accountability and justice, and have helped to inform its advocacy and campaigning work. In addition to its research and reporting, Amnesty International has also worked to build partnerships with local human rights groups and civil society organizations. These partnerships have helped to strengthen Amnesty International's work in Nigeria, enabling the organization to reach a wider audience and to have a greater impact. Amnesty International's interventions in Nigeria have also focused on promoting economic, social,

and cultural rights. The organization has worked to address issues such as poverty, inequality, and access to education and healthcare.<sup>20</sup>

The organization's work has also helped to promote the rights of marginalized groups, including women, children, and minorities. Amnesty International has worked to address issues such as violence against women, child labor, and discrimination against minority groups. Amnesty International's interventions in Nigeria have not gone unnoticed. The organization's work has been recognized and commended by various stakeholders, including human rights organizations, civil society groups, and government officials. Despite the progress made, there is still much work to be done. Amnesty International continues to face challenges in its work in Nigeria, including limited resources, security concerns, and opposition from government officials.<sup>21</sup>

However, Amnesty International remains committed to its work in Nigeria. The organization continues to work tirelessly to promote and protect human rights in the country, often in the face of significant obstacles. The impact of Amnesty International's interventions on human rights in Nigeria can be seen in various areas. The organization's work has helped to promote freedom of expression, association, and assembly, and has helped to address issues such as torture, extrajudicial killings, and enforced disappearances. Amnesty International's work has also helped to promote economic, social, and cultural rights, and has helped to address issues such as poverty, inequality, and access to education and healthcare.<sup>22</sup>

The organization's work has also helped to promote the rights of marginalized groups, including women, children, and minorities. Amnesty International's interventions in Nigeria have helped to bring about positive change, and have helped to promote a culture of human rights in the country. Amnesty International's interventions in Nigeria have had a profound impact on the country's human rights landscape. The organization's work has helped to promote freedom of expression, association, and assembly, and has helped to address issues such as torture, extrajudicial killings, and enforced disappearances. Amnesty International's work has also helped to promote economic, social, and cultural rights, and has helped to address issues such as poverty, inequality, and access to education and healthcare.<sup>23</sup>

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## **Conclusion**

Amnesty International's work in Nigeria has had a profound impact on the country's human rights landscape. Despite facing numerous challenges, including opposition from government officials and security agencies, the organization has continued to work tirelessly to promote and protect human rights in Nigeria. Amnesty International's efforts have contributed significantly to the promotion and protection of

human rights, particularly in the areas of freedom of expression, association, and assembly. As the organization continues its work in Nigeria, it is essential that it remains committed to its mandate and continues to work towards promoting and protecting human rights for all.

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## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **CONCLUSION**

The amnesty process in Nigeria has been a complex and multifaceted phenomenon. The federal government's decision to grant amnesty to rebels during the Nigerian Civil War, nineteen sixty-seven to nineteen seventy, marked the beginning of this process. Subsequently, the Presidential Amnesty Programme (PAP) introduced in 2009 aimed to reintegrate militants in the Niger Delta region. Despite the PAP's

successes, human rights concerns persisted, including excessive force, torture, and enforced disappearances. Amnesty International played a crucial role in highlighting these issues and promoting accountability.<sup>1</sup>

Nigeria's human rights record has been shaped by its complex history, cultural diversity, and political dynamics. Pre-colonial societies recognized and protected fundamental rights, while colonialism imposed authoritarian rule and denied basic rights. Post-independence efforts to promote human rights have been inconsistent, with persistent violations under military rule. The findings underscore the need for sustained efforts to promote justice, accountability, and sustainable development in Nigeria. Addressing the root causes of conflict, such as environmental degradation and economic inequality, is critical to achieving lasting peace and stability.<sup>2</sup>

In chapter two, the historical context and evolution of Amnesty International's involvement in Nigeria were examined. The chapter provided an in-depth analysis of the organization's interventions and operations in Nigeria from 1967 to 2009. The findings revealed that Amnesty International's involvement in Nigeria dates back to the 1967 civil war, with campaigns to raise awareness about human rights abuses committed by both the Nigerian government and the Biafran separatists. The organization's reports and campaigns in the 1980s focused on issues such as extrajudicial killings, torture, and enforced disappearances. The chapter also highlighted Amnesty International's strategies in Nigeria, including targeted campaigns, "naming and shaming," and human rights

education and training. These strategies have contributed to raising awareness about human rights abuses and putting pressure on the Nigerian government to take action. Despite the challenges faced by Amnesty International in Nigeria, including opposition from the government and limited funding and resources, the organization's interventions have had a significant impact on the country's human rights landscape. Overall, this chapter has provided a comprehensive understanding of Amnesty International's involvement in Nigeria, highlighting the organization's key strategies, challenges, and impact. This foundation informed the subsequent chapters, which examined the specific human rights issues in Nigeria and Amnesty International's responses to these issues.<sup>3</sup>

In chapter three, the advocacy and campaigns of Amnesty International in Nigeria were examined. The chapter provided an in-depth analysis of the organization's strategies and tactics for mobilizing public support for human rights in Nigeria. The findings revealed that Amnesty International has utilized a range of strategies to raise awareness about human rights issues in Nigeria, including the use of social media, public demonstrations, and collaborative efforts with local human rights groups. The organization's campaigns have sought to mobilize public opinion and pressure the Nigerian government to take action to address human rights abuses. Amnesty International's efforts have also focused on empowering local communities and human rights defenders in Nigeria, providing them with the tools and support needed to advocate for their rights. The organization's training and capacity-building programs have helped to build the capacity of local human rights defenders in Nigeria. Overall, this chapter has

demonstrated the significant role that Amnesty International has played in promoting and protecting human rights in Nigeria. The organization's advocacy and campaigns have helped to raise awareness about human rights issues in Nigeria and have pushed for policy changes to address these issues. The findings of this chapter have implications for the development of effective strategies for promoting and protecting human rights in Nigeria. They highlight the importance of mobilizing public support for human rights and of empowering local communities and human rights defenders to advocate for their rights.<sup>4</sup>

In chapter four, the impact of Amnesty International's interventions on human rights in Nigeria was examined. The chapter provided an in-depth analysis of the organization's work in Nigeria, including its research and reporting, advocacy and campaigning, and partnerships with local human rights groups and civil society organizations. The findings revealed that Amnesty International's interventions have had a profound impact on the human rights landscape in Nigeria. The organization's work has helped to promote freedom of expression, association, and assembly, and has helped to address issues such as torture, extrajudicial killings, and enforced disappearances. Amnesty International's interventions have also helped to promote economic, social, and cultural rights, and have helped to address issues such as poverty, inequality, and access to education and healthcare. The chapter also highlighted the challenges faced by Amnesty International in its work in Nigeria, including limited resources, security concerns, and opposition from government officials. Despite these challenges, Amnesty

International remains committed to its work in Nigeria, and continues to work tirelessly to promote and protect human rights in the country.<sup>5</sup>

Overall, this chapter has demonstrated the significant impact that Amnesty International's interventions have had on human rights in Nigeria. The organization's work has helped to bring about positive change, and has helped to promote a culture of human rights in the country. The findings of this chapter have implications for the development of effective strategies for promoting and protecting human rights in Nigeria, and highlight the importance of continued support for human rights organizations like Amnesty International. Good Amnesty International's interventions in Nigeria have been instrumental in promoting and protecting human rights in the country. The organization's work has helped to bring about positive change, and has helped to promote a culture of human rights in Nigeria. As Amnesty International continues its work in Nigeria, it is essential that the organization remains committed to its mandate and continues to work tirelessly to promote and protect human rights in the country.<sup>6</sup>

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