**Statement of the Human Rights Implementation Centre**

**Agenda item: Human Rights Situation in Africa**

The Human Rights Implementation Centre would like to alert the African Commission to the ongoing violations occurring in Biafra.

The African Commission has adopted provisional measures with respect to the proscription of the Indigenous Peoples of Biafra (IPOB) by the Nigerian government. As Agnes Callamard, the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, noted in September 2019, and which we understand is still the situation today, there is no indication of any steps taken to implement this decision and that the ‘repression of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB)’, continues. Further, she considered that: ‘… the security response is dangerously quasi-prospective, with individuals, communities and associations actively targeted for what they may have done decades ago, or for what they may do or may become, rather than for what they are doing or have done’.

The consequences of the proscription of IPOB are frequent violations of the rights of IPOB members and those who identify as Biafran. These violations have included torture and ill-treatment; enforced disappearances and threats to life as well as extrajudicial killings, and arbitrary arrest and detention. We also have evidence of agents of the Nigerian government physically attacking individuals assembling or participating in meetings and demonstrations.

In June 2021 the leader of the Indigenous Peoples of Biafra, Nnamdi Kanu, was picked up at the airport in Kenya and for the following 10 days his whereabouts were unknown. He then was found in detention in Abuja, with evidence of his torture and ill treatment in the intervening days. There was no formal legal process or court hearing in Kenya. On 29th June 2021 Mr Kanu appeared, without legal representation, before the Federal High Court of Abuja on charges of terrorism.

In August 2021, a number of the UN human rights special procedures adopted a joint statement expressing concern at his enforced disappearance and allegations of torture and ill treatment and arbitrary detention. They requested further information from the government on the allegations and measures taken to ensure his rights.

We respectfully call on the African Commission to urgently consider the ongoing violations against Biafrans and to urge the Nigerian government, in line with its obligations under the ACHPR to:

* Provide the relatives of those who have been disappeared, the truth regarding the circumstances of the disappearance, the progress and results of investigations and the fate of the person;
* Respond to the UN special procedures regarding the rights of Mr Kanu and ensure that his rights are upheld;
* Comply with the provisional measures issued by the African Commission;
* Ensure that those individuals still in detention who have been held on the basis of expressing their support for Biafra are brought promptly before a judge or immediately released;
* Investigate, prosecute and punish those responsible for violations that have occurred.
* Provide adequate, effective and comprehensive reparation to all the victims of torture and other forms of ill-treatment and other violations.