

Amnesty condemns Edo executions

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International human rights group, Amnesty International, has condemned in strong terms the recent executions of three inmates in Edo State and called on authorities in Nigeria to stop further executions.

"Amnesty International strongly condemns the executions on December 23 2016 of three death row prisoners in Benin City prison by the Edo state government and calls on authorities in Nigeria not to carry out any further executions of death row prisoners. We urge the Nigerian government, including all states in the federation, to return to a moratorium on executions, with a view of abolishing the death penalty," said Makmid Kamara of Amnesty International.

"The latest executions in Edo state is a backward step in the global trend towards abolition of the death penalty and is inconsistent with Nigeria's international human rights commitments. Stopping executions and doing away with the death penalty does not mean that criminals go unpunished. It is essential that human rights standards, including allowing for full appeals to complete, are respected in all stages of the criminal justice process. All punishments must be compatible with human rights," Kamara said in the statement released late Friday.

Only recently Sunday Telegraph published an article in which many lawyers condemned governors for failing to sign death warrents of people sentenced to death by various courts across the land.

According to reports, about 1,400 inmates are currently on death row.

