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[Nigeria](#): Road Accidents - Rights Group Threatens to Drag FG to ICC

19 August 2010

Lagos — Gravely disturbed that hundreds of thousands of citizens are wasted on daily basis in the various avoidable road accidents across the country, Human Rights Writers' Association of Nigeria, (HURIWA) has warned the Federal Government that its officials stand the risk of being dragged to the International Criminal Court (ICC) for crimes against humanity.

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The rights group was particularly irked by weekend's road carnage when 30 lives were lost in a gory road accident which occurred opposite Michael Otedola Housing Estate along Lagos-Ibadan Expressway where about 15 vehicles got burnt.

HURIWA also specifically listed the Aba/Owerri/Port Harcourt Federal Highway, Benin-Lagos Highway and the Lokoja- Abuja Highway as some notorious flash points where hundreds of Nigerians have perished in avoidable accidents this year.

The Rights group is also worried that the Federal Government has failed to implement



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The Rights group is also worried that the Federal Government has failed to implement far-reaching remedial measures to fix the rapidly declining and deteriorating state of the Nigerian road infrastructure even when official statistics from the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) has it that over 1,800 lives have been lost in road accidents in the last six months of 2010.

Citing a report credited to the Corps Marshal and Chief Executive officer of FRSC, Mr. Osita Chidoka, at a recent forum in Kwara State, HURIWA in a statement made available to journalists and jointly endorsed by its National Coordinator, Comrade Emmanuel Onwubiko, and Senior Programme Manager, Miss. Ogom Kifordu, said it amounted to horrendous crime against humanity that government officials charged with the constitutional duty of fixing the deteriorating road infrastructure would rather wantonly loot public funds and allow innocent Nigerians to continue to perish in largely avoidable road accidents.

It disclosed that it has compiled and will soon send a comprehensive report to the United Nations on the various cases of road accidents leading to the unfortunate death of several thousands of Nigerians as a result of poorly maintained road infrastructure in the country.

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HURIWA stated that the report contains names of all key government officials that supervised the relevant government transportation/road ministries and agencies from 1999 till date.

It stated that it has commenced intensive deliberations with like-minded civil society organisations in the country with a view to exploring the possibility of instituting a class case against officials of the Federal Government including President Goodluck Jonathan before the International Crimes Court (ICC) in The Hague, Netherlands, to draw the attention of the international community to the horrendous crimes against humanity committed by Nigerian Government officials through the series of cases of road carnage resulting in the lost of several thousands of lives as a result of the criminal neglect to maintain the road infrastructure.

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