



Note No. 24/93.

The High Commission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria presents its compliments to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and has the honour to attach herewith the Periodic Report on Nigerian Human Rights Records in accordance with Article 62 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

The High Commission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.



The African Commission
on Human and Peoples' Rights,
Kairaba Avenue,
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THE PERIODIC REPORT ON NIGERIA'S
HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD TO THE AFRICAN COMMISSION
ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS: 1ST. APRIL, 1993

PERIODIC REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA UNDER
THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS

In accordance with the provision of Article 62 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria submits the following report to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Nigeria has always recognised the principles of Human Rights as enunciated both in the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights as well as those contained in the International Bill of Human Rights and has continued to provide necessary milieu for its protection and observance. Nigeria was one of the first recipients of Human Rights provisions modelled on the European Convention for the protection of Human Rights and Fundamental freedoms. In 1959, in advance of her Independence, Nigeria enshrined the provision's of the European bill of rights into her Constitution, the 1959 Constitution.

At Independence in 1960 and on assumption of Republican status in 1963, two written Constitutions containing the provisions of the bill of rights; the Independence Constitution and the Republican Constitution were respectively, promulgated on each occasion. The two Constitutions devoted a whole Chapter each to the recognition and guarantee of fundamental rights. The courts were imbued with jurisdiction to hear and determine all matters pertaining to human rights violations in Nigeria. The rights and freedoms guaranteed by these Constitutions were categorised under five broad headings as follows:

- (i) Personal rights
- (ii) Political and moral rights
- (iii) Proprietary rights
- (iv) Procedural rights and
- (v) Equality rights.

INDEPENDENCE PERIOD TO 1979

2. In 1966, Nigeria experienced the first military intervention. For well known acts of political intolerance, hooliganism and even arson, the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria took over the reins of government on the 15th of January, 1966 via a coup d'etat, thus extinguishing the first Republic. Military administration in the politics of Nigeria should by no means be seen as total absence of policies geared towards the protection and observance of human rights; in fact the policy to return to

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civilian rule had always constituted priority concern to all the military administrations. It was in line with the above policy and in order to achieve a functional liberal democracy that the Late General Murtala Mohammed's administration in 1975 constituted a 50 member Constitution Drafting Committee charged with the responsibility to devise a Constitution that would reflect amongst other things an Independent Judiciary. The report of the Constitution Drafting Committee submitted in 1976, formed the basis of what was referred to as "the Great Debate" as a result of the large participation in the Constitution making process by the Nigerian Citizenry. The draft constitution which emerged thereafter was given the force of law and promulgated into the 1979 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The 1979 Constitution contains major and significant improvements on the 1960 and 1963 Constitutions. It is important to note that although Nigeria promulgated in 1989 Constitution Decree No. 12 the provisions thereof are not fully operative. As provided by the latter, commencement date may be appointed later where the circumstances so warrant, and in that wise, commencement date has been fixed for 27th, August, 1993. Reference shall therefore be made only to the 1979 Constitution which is fully operative. Part of the improvement made was the innovation introduced in the Nigerian history of constitution - making process of the provisions on fundamental objectives and directive principles of state policy as contained in Chapter II of the 1979 Constitution. The basic principles governing political, economic, social and cultural life in Nigeria are therein enumerated.

Section 14 of the Constitution provides that

"The Federal Republic of Nigeria shall be a State based on the principles of democracy and social justice. The State social order is founded on ideals of Freedom, Equality and Justice.

The following provisions of ^{the Constitution} Section 17 (2)(a - e) constitute the guidelines for legislative policies and the background upon which the fundamental rights in Chapter IV of the Constitution are based.

Section 17 (2) In furtherance of the social order -

- (a) every citizen shall have equality of rights, obligations and opportunities before the law;
- (b) the sanctity of the human person shall be recognised and human dignity shall be maintained and enhanced;
- (c) governmental actions shall be humane;
- (d) exploitation of human or natural resources in any form whatsoever for reasons other than the good of the community shall be prevented; and

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- (e) the independence, impartiality and integrity of courts of law, and easy accessibility thereto shall be secured and maintained.

It is important to state that the provisions on fundamental rights set out in sections 30 - 40 of Chapter IV of the Constitution remain unchanged inspite of the Constitution (Suspension and Modification) Decree No. 17 of 1985. The language of Chapter IV on fundamental rights is mandatory and more positive than that of the earlier Constitutions. The provisions are briefly introduced below:

Section 30 - RIGHT TO LIFE

"Every person has a right to life, and no one shall be deprived intentionally of his life, same in execution of the sentence of a court in respect of a criminal offence of which he has been found guilty in Nigeria";

Section 31 - RIGHT TO DIGNITY OF HUMAN PERSON

"Every individual is entitled to respect for the dignity of his person and accordingly - no person shall not be held in slavery or servitude and no person shall be required to perform forced or compulsory labour; the Nigerian Government does not apply forced labour as a means of political coercion or as a sanction against free expression. Nigeria has ratified the International Labour Organisation Convention and is therefore subject to its provisions;

Section 32 - RIGHT TO PERSONAL LIBERTY

"Every person shall be entitled to his personal liberty and no person shall be deprived of such liberty same as provided by law in the subsections of this section;

Section 33 - RIGHT TO FAIR HEARING

"A person shall be entitled to a fair hearing within a reasonable time by a court or other tribunal established by law, and constituted in such manner as to secure its independence and impartiality -

Section 34 - RIGHT TO PRIVATE AND FAMILY LIFE

"The privacy of citizens, their homes, correspondence telephone conversations and telegraphic communications is hereby protected.

Section 35 - RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, CONSCIENCE AND RELIGION

" Every person shall be entitled to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, including freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom (either alone or in community with others, and in public or in private) to manifest and propagate his religion or belief in worship, teaching, practice and observance;

Section 36 - RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND THE PRESS

"Every person shall be entitled to freedom of expression including freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart ideas and information without interference.

Nigeria operates one of the freest press in the World. With many privately owned print media houses of daily newspapers, soft journals and the electronic media;

Section 37 - RIGHT TO PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

"Every person shall be entitled to assemble freely and associate with other persons, and in particular he may form or belong to any political party trade union or any other association for the protection of his interests.

Section 38 - RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

"Every citizen of Nigeria is entitled to move freely throughout Nigeria and to reside in any part thereof, and no citizen of Nigeria shall be expelled from Nigeria or refused entry thereto or exit therefrom;

Section 39 - RIGHT TO FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION

"A citizen of Nigeria of a particular community ethnic group place of origin, sex, religion or political opinion shall not, by reason only that he is such a person -

be subjected either expressly by, or in the practical application of any law in force or any executive or administrative action of the government to disabilities or restrictions to which citizens of Nigeria of other communities, ethnic groups, places of origin, sex, religions, or political opinions are not made subject;

It is worthy to note that the above mentioned section provides the corner - stone upon which the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination is based.

Section 40 - PROVIDES RIGHT AGAINST COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY

No movable property or any interest in an immovable property shall be taken possession of compulsorily and no right over or interest in any such property shall be acquired compulsorily in any part of Nigeria except in the manner and for the purposes prescribed by a law amongst other things.

THE CONSTITUTION: THE LEGISLATURE, EXECUTIVE AND JUDICIARY

3. The doctrine of separation of powers, one of the basic principle in a democratic system; that is the clear separation and mutual independence of the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary is reflected in the 1979 Constitution. Sections 43 & 84 provide for the Legislature, a National Assembly and a House of Assembly for each State;

The offices of the President and the Governor of a State in terms of the Executive are provided for in sections 122 and 162 respectively; and provisions on the Judicature are contained in Chapter VII of the Constitution. The judiciary is independent in the discharge of its functions. It must be mentioned that the independence of the judiciary is guaranteed through the security of tenure of judges as entrenched in the Constitution. A judge cannot be removed from office once appointed until reaching the age of retirement; same for inability to perform his functions or for misbehaviour.

3.1. THE JUDICIARY

Nigeria operates a four tier - judicial system, namely the Supreme

- (i) the Supreme Court which is the highest court of the land;
- (ii) the Court of Appeal, the Sharia Court of Appeal of State and the Customary Court of Appeal of a State;
- (iii) the High Court of a State - this category of Court has unlimited jurisdiction to hear and determine any civil proceedings in which the existence or extent of a legal right, power, duty etc is in issue;
- (iv) and the Magistrate Court and Customary Courts.

3.2. SPECIAL JURISDICTION OF HIGH COURT AND LEGAL AID

The provisions of section 42 (1) (2) (3) of the Constitution here under contained constitute significant improvement on the earlier constitutions.

Section 42 (1) Any person who alleges that any of the provisions of this Chapter has been, is being or likely to be contravened in any State in relation to him may apply to a High Court in that State for redress.

- (2) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, a High Court shall have original jurisdiction to hear and determine any application made to it in pursuance of the provisions of this section and may make such orders, issue such writs and give such directions as it may consider appropriate for the purpose of enforcing or securing the enforcement within that State of any rights to which the person who makes the application may be entitled under the Chapter.
- (3) The Chief Justice of Nigeria may make rules with respect to the practice and procedure of a High Court for the purposes of this section.

The Nigerian Courts are still vested with the power to enforce human rights and fundamental provisions of the Constitution notwithstanding the amendment of the Constitution (suspension and modification) Decree No. 17 of 1984 by the Constitution (Suspension and modification) (Amendment) Decree No. 17 of 1985. The Courts continue to entertain complaints of infringement or anticipatory infringements of fundamental rights. On procedure for enforcement of fundamental rights, the Nigerian Supreme Court in *Alhaji Dahiru Saude Vs Alhaji Halliru Abdullahi*, 4 Nigerian Weekly Law Reports page 387, unanimously held that the manner in which an application for enforcement of fundamental rights under Chapter 4 of the 1979 Constitution is brought, is irrelevant once it is clear that such application seeks redress for infringement of the rights so guaranteed under the Constitution. In *Alhaji Abbas Tafida Vs Alhaji Sa'adu Abubakar and others* (1992) 3 NWLR page 511 the Federal Court of Appeal held that the High Court has jurisdiction by virtue of Order I rule 3(i) of the fundamental Rights (Enforcement Procedure) Rules, 1979 to enlarge the time within which to commence an action for the enforcement of fundamental rights after the expiration of the prescribed period of twelve months. In *Gani Fawehinmi Vs The State* (1990) 1 NWLR page 487, Babalakin. J.C.A. applied the ruling of the Supreme Court in the case of *Aroyewun Vs Adebajji* (1976) 11 S.C.33 where it was stated that unsuspended provisions of the Constitution would be strictly adhered to and that obedience to our Constitution should be the mood of the Nation.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS AND ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

The efficacy of constitutional and indeed any other fundamental rights provision depends on the attitude of the courts to its infringement.

Under the 1979 Constitution, human rights provisions directly relevant to the administration of Criminal Justice relate to the right of life (section 30); the right to dignity of the human person (section 31); the right to liberty (section 32); and the right to fair hearing (section 33). They also constitute pre-trial constitutional rights. Various statutory provisions implement or perhaps supplement the pre-trial constitutional guarantee. The Criminal procedure Cap 43, Laws of Nigeria 1990 and its counterpart the Criminal Procedure Code Cap. 30, Laws of Nigeria 1990, as well as the Police Act Cap 154 contained in the Laws of Nigeria 1990 as amended provide in details the manner or form of arrest, treatment and custody of arrested persons and also conditions for their bail.

In *Augustine Eda V. Commissioner of Police*, (1982) 2 NCLR 21 the Court of Appeal stated that the power of the police not to grant bail if the offence appears to the officer to be of a serious nature under the Criminal Procedure Act and the Police Act is more restrictive of liberty than is permitted by section 32 of the 1979 Constitution. That the section does not recognise a residual right in a police officer to determine that an arrested person be denied bail because the offence appears to the officer to be of a serious nature and consequently declared section 17 of the Act and Section 23 of the Police Act invalid.

In *Otapo & Ors V. Sunmonu & Ors*, (1987) 2 NSCC 667, the Supreme Court concluded that "the true text of a fair hearing is the impression of a reasonable person who was present at the trial, whether from his observations, justice has been done in the case.

The Supreme Court held in *Ariori & Ors V. Elemo & Ors* (1983) N.S.C.C. 1, that an inordinate delay between conclusion of evidence and delivery of judgement violates section 33 (4) of the 1979 Constitution which guarantees a fair and speedy trial within a reasonable time. The pro-rights stance of the judiciary is in no doubt in view of all the above.

5. LEGAL AID DIVISION

Part of the significant differences in the 1979 Constitution was the introduction of legal aid provisions and the establishment of the Legal Aid Division. It was a most wellcome addition in view of the prevalent economic climate. It is important to note that legal aid had already been introduced by the Legal Aid Act of 1976 in criminal cases which became expanded due to the Constitutional recognition of the right to legal aid in cases regarding allegations of infringement of a citizen's fundamental rights. The Constitutional provision states as follows: that the National Assembly shall make provisions: - (Section 42 (4) (B) (i) (ii));

- (i) for the rendering of financial assistance to any indigent citizen of Nigeria where his right under this Chapter has been infringed or with a view enabling him to engage the services of a legal practitioner to prosecute his claim, and
- (ii) for ensuring that allegations of infringement of such rights are substantial and the requirement or need for financial or legal aid is real.

The present administration in recognition of the equal importance of legal representation in civil matters promulgated the Legal Aid Amendment Decree No. 10 of 1986 which extended the services of Legal Aid to include civil cases as opposed to only criminal cases. It may be noted that Nigeria has a virile bar.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION

After a military interregnum that spanned the period between 1966 and 1979, the Armed Forces inaugurated another civilian government in October 1979. Following the high-handed and immaturity of the politicians, the second attempt of Nigerians of democracy crashed on the 31st. of December 1983 and through another Coup d'etat the military intervened. During the period, most high ranking politicians were arrested and detained en mass. Most of them were tried and convicted by tribunals. Sentences were severe amongst other things. The situation generated tension and frustration.

It was against this background that the Babangida Administration, took over government on the 27th of August, 1985. It is gratifying to note that between then and now, the present administration has taken very many active measures to improve the human rights posture of the nation. This administration is committed to a functioning democracy.

6.1. ACTIVE MEASURES TOWARDS IMPROVING THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION

- (i) The controversial Public Officers (Protection from False Accusation) Decree No. 4 of 1984 which suppressed Press Freedom and under which two journalists were sent to jail by the previous military administration was repealed and the two journalists granted state pardon;
- (ii) All persons detained without charge or trial were released. This fact is confirmed in the report published by the UNITED

States Committee on Foreign Relations on Human Rights in Nigeria for 1985 and 1986;

- (iii) The following Special review Tribunals were set up to review cases of those tried and sentenced under the draconian Decrees of the last Administration, some of which prescribed death sentences as punishment for offences created therein and which also disallowed appeals;
 - (a) Tribunal to review cases of those tried and convicted for officers under the Recovery of Public Property (Special Military Tribunals) Decree No. 3 of 1984.
 - (b) Tribunal to review cases of those convicted under Decree 7, Exchange Control (Anti-Sabotage) of 1984.
 - (c) Tribunal to review cases of those convicted under the Special Tribunal (Miscellaneous Offences) Decree No. 20 of 1984.
- (iv) The Decrees themselves were also reviewed and the death sentence previously prescribed for the offences of drug trafficking, unlawful dealing in petroleum products and counterfeiting of currency were abolished and replaced by a maximum of life imprisonment. Furthermore, the prescription of a "minimum sentence" of 21 years imprisonment for some of the offences was amended to read "maximum sentence";
- (v) A right of appeal to the Special Appeal Tribunal was established by the Recovery of Public Property (Special Military Tribunals) (Amendment) Decree No. 21 of 1986, for any person by any of the Special Military Tribunals;

- (vi) The present Administration has promulgated the Trade Unions (Disqualification of Certain Persons) (Repeal) Decree No. 9 of 1987 whereby it lifted the ban on certain persons from belonging to or holding any offices in any trade union and from participating in the management of the affairs of any trade union;
- (vii) The Administration also lifted the ban imposed on the Nigerian Medical Association (the National Association of Resident Doctors) by the previous Administration;
- (viii) The Newswatch (Prescription and prohibition from circulation) Decree No. 6 of 1987 which was promulgated as a result of an abuse and breach of the Official Secret Act 1962 has been repealed and the Publishers involved, pardoned;
- (ix) The right of the public to discuss the country's political future which was banned by the previous Military administration was lifted by the setting up of a "Political Bureau" to organise discussions, deliberate and make recommendations on the future political programme

for Transition to Civil Rule and the future political system for Nigeria. After the Political Bureau ended its public sittings in September, 1986 its Report was considered by the Federal Military Government and for the purposes of a smooth transition to civil rule, it promulgated the Transition to Civil Rule (Political Programme) Decree No. 19 of 1987.

6.2. LAW REVIEW REVISION AND REFORM

Since the inception of the present administration law have been used as an instrument of social engineering. Programmes on law review, revision reform and reporting are consciously carried on in Nigeria. There had been a review of all pre - 1900 English Statutes of general application several of which were completely obsolete and out of tune with our socio-cultural realities and ethos. To have continued the application of those laws would not have been in furtherance of human rights. Nigeria now has her basic laws revised, and contained in the Laws of the Federation 1990.

There was also a compilation and publication of all Treaties entered into by Nigeria from 1970 - 1990, and the Nigeria Companies and Allied Matters Decree No. 1 of 1990 which reviewed the old Company's Act. The project of Law reporting has been revived; in March 1991, new sets of All Nigerian Law Reports 1961 - 1990 was launched.

6.3. Nigeria has many activities in place geared towards public awareness and enlightenment based amongst others on the principles of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Schools and University Curricula for law and Social Sciences include teachings on constitutional law and human rights; the Nigeria Police College teaches principles of human rights. The Nigerian Prisons Authority Staff also undergo basic teachings on the same.

In furtherance of human rights, Nigeria's educational policy is to promote and ensure mass literacy. Section 18 of the Constitution States that "Government shall direct its policy towards ensuring that there are equal and adequate educational opportunities at all levels".

Government shall strive to eradicate illiteracy and shall as and when practicable provide:-

- (a) free compulsory and universal primary education;
- (b) free secondary education;
- (c) free university education and
- (d) free adult literacy programme.

It is important to mention that the nomadic tribes of Nigeria constitutes one of such priorities hence nomadic education was introduced vide the establishment of the National Commission for Nomadic Education Decree No. 41 of 1989.

6.4. HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING PROGRAMME UNDERTAKEN BY NIGERIANS

- (i) The Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies carries out researches and publishes books on contemporary legal issues. Specifically series of research were conducted on Human Rights and Administration of Criminal Justice in collaboration with the Ford Foundation which are presently contained in a publication titled "Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (N.I.A.L.S.) Research Series No. 1. Human Rights and the administration of Justice of Criminal Justice in Nigeria"
- (ii) Nigeria has held or participated in a number of Training Seminars/Workshops on human rights as follows to mention a few:
 - (a) International Seminar on human rights and socio-economic progress held in Cotonou, Peoples' Republic of Benin, 1988;
 - (b) International Seminar on Human Rights Towards better Protection and Enforcement of Human Rights, Lagos 1992;
 - (c) Legal Aid, Human Rights and Social Justice: Public Enlightenment Seminar - Kaduna 1989
 - (d) National Multi - disciplinary Workshop on Human Rights held at the University of Calabar - November, 1987;
 - (e) Workshop on Human Rights Training for Commonwealth Public Officials held in Banjul, the Gambia, 1989.
 - (f) Int. Seminar on HR. Lagos, 1991.

6.5. NATIONAL INSTITUTION FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Apart from the REGular courts and TRIBunals Nigeria for the past two decades had established the office of the Public Complaints Commissioner who handles complaints referred to him by aggrieved individuals, groups and corporate bodies alike. Furthermore, a code of Conduct Bureau was established to ensure probity of Senior Public Officers by declaring their assets prior and after public service.

It is gratifying to report that Nigeria has established a Human Rights Monitoring Unit under the Federal Ministry of Justice. The objective of the UNit is to enhance the implementation of Human Rights Instruments. The UNit is designed to receive petitions and complaints on human rights violation. It has the responsibility of preparing reports, guidelines and codes of conduct for circulation amongst government departments and Law Enforcement Agencies. State governments have also been requested to establish similar units in their Justice Departments.

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The Nigerian Law Reform Commission reviews national law from time to time in order to keep the laws in tune with contemporary legal issue.

6.6. MASS MOBILISATION FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION

In view of limited national resources vis-a-vis the Nigerian population, the Federal Government in 1986 established two basic institutions namely: Mass Mobilisation for social and economic reconstruction (MAMSER) and the Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure DFRRI. The primary objective of MAMSER is to inform and mobilise the general populace vis-a-vis their economic, social and cultural rights, plus political and civil rights whilst that of DFRRI is to ensure equitable and nationwide distribution of limited national resources particularly in the rural areas.

6.7. TRANSITION TO CIVIL RULE

In the area of politics, the present administration had done a great deal to carry politics to the grass roots and every door step, and has also re-awaken citizens' exercise of political rights. Indeed it has been quite revolutionary in formulating the programme for transition to civil rule, which was promulgated in the Transition to Civil Rule (Political Programme) Decree No. 19 of 1987. To further ensure political rights of Nigerians in 1989 the Transition to Civil Rule (Political Parties Registration and Activities) Decree No. 27 was promulgated. The position presently is that both former and present government officials and politicians may engage in political activities and run for elections) (Miscellaneous - Provision) in 1991, those politicians earlier arrested were released, and all Nigerians except those convicted of offences committed while in public office can participate in politics. Further on the transition programme in 1991 an International Conference was held at Abuja, Nigeria on Democracy and the Law, where participants were addressed on the system of democracy ^{inter alia} by the former Vice President of the United States of America.

The law allows two political parties in Nigeria. The Social Democratic Party which is a little to the left and the National Republican Convention which is a little to right. In their different manifestos, they both uphold the basic principles of fundamental rights, uplifting the general standards of the citizenry and in all, ensuring compliance with the tenets of Nigeria's Constitution.

Significant progress has been made on the implementation of the transition programme towards democratic civil rule. Local government elections were successfully conducted. Elections into State Assemblies and Governorship positions have also been held. Specifically, as part of the transition programme, a formula for election was evolved called

Option A4 which has been designed to spread - out the geographical area from which the President emerges. Presidential party elections have been held at the ward level, the local government level, the state level and the national level. As part of the transition programme a national census was conducted in November, 1991.

The above programme was in furtherance of the International Conventions on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Civil and Political Rights to which Nigeria has acceded.

6.8. PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Women's Rights/^{Promotion} in Nigeria is on-going and enjoy maximum and full support of the government. In this regard, the Nigeria's Better Life for Rural Women Programme has greatly contributed to the present awareness amongst Nigerian women of their economic strength especially in the rural areas. Each state of the Federation has its own Chapter of Better Life Programme which won an International Award for Nigeria's First Lady.

There are also the National Council of Women's Society and the National Commission on Women. These bodies assist in promoting and protecting the rights of women and children by organising seminars, workshops, symposia to publicize their course. Following one of such seminars, the book titled, "Women and Children under Nigerian Law" was published.

7. CONCLUSION

In clear support of the International Bill of Human Rights, Nigeria ratified the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and is party to the following United Nations Conventions on Human Rights:

- (1) International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural rights
Nigeria has accede;
- (2) International Convention on Civil and Political rights
- (3) International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial
Discrimination;
- (4) Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against
Women;
- (5) International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the
Crime of Apartheid;
- (6) Convention relating to the Status of Refugees;
- (7) Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees;
- (8) Convention on the Political Rights of Women;
- (9) Slavery Convention signed at Geneva on 25th. Sept. 1926 and amended
by the Protocol done at the Headquarters of the United Nations
New York.

(10) Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Consecutive governments of Nigeria has reaffirmed that human rights are a fundamental policy of their administrations. The active role of Nigeria in the African Charter is a strong commitment to the policy. The indications are that human rights have a bright future in the country.

Finally, the Government of Nigeria has always, remains committed to the recognition and respect of the principles of human rights and shall continue to pursue its fundamental objectives on foreign policy which is to promote African Unity as well as total political, economic, social and cultural liberation of Africa and all other forms of International co-operation for the consolidation of universal peace.