

Please check signature

Statement by Nigeria on behalf of the African Group on the
situation of human rights in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya at
the 15th Special Session of the HRC

25 February 2011

Mr. President,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the African Group.

The African Group ^{is convinced that} ~~believes in the need~~ for the Council, as the leading United Nations body charged with the responsibility of promotion and protection of human rights, to pronounce itself on the situation in Libya. Today's special session ~~indeed offers~~ ^{that} opportunity. ~~In doing so~~ however, we request all stakeholders in this endeavour to address the issue at stake within the remit of the Council's mandate.

At this juncture, we wish to make it clear that the African Group is no less concerned about the situation in Libya than any other country or region. In fact a number of African leaders individually and collectively were the first to take up the initiative to reach out to the Libyan leader with a view to staving off escalation of the crisis before any similar effort from outside the continent.

Furthermore, the 261st meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union issued a communiqué not only condemning, in the strongest of terms, the indiscriminate and excessive use of force against peaceful protesters but also decided to urgently dispatch a mission to Libya to assess the situation on the ground.

Mr. President,

Consistent with the forgoing, therefore, the African Group sees the ~~great~~ need for the Libyan authorities and the good people of Libya never to relent in their efforts in avoiding any further loss of life or escalation of the situation. On this occasion, the African Group would like to convey its deep ^{and sincere} ~~and sincere~~ condolences to the families of the victims and we wish a speedy recovery to all those who sustained injuries. We ^{also} ~~also call upon~~ the Libyan

authorities to guarantee not only the protection and security of the citizens but also to ensure that humanitarian assistance ~~are~~ ^{is} provided to the injured and the population in need.

Mr. President,

The African Group is convinced that at difficult times ^{such as} ~~like~~ this, open dialogue and consultation remain the only panacea for Libya to find the much needed solutions to the challenges it is faced with and ultimately strive towards meeting the aspirations of the Libyan people for the entrenchment of enduring democracy, justice and socio-economic development.

In conclusion, the African Group eagerly anticipates that the Libyan authorities would acquiesce to the call by the international community to deploy peaceful and nonviolent means of reacting to the current crisis. We would like to add that just as the International community remained united in their condemnation of the human rights situation in Libya so also must it unite in helping Libya surmount its challenges. Member States of the United Nations should therefore desist from capitalizing on this unfortunate situation ~~to make any political gains~~. The common humanity that binds us together under the United Nations Charter should inform our utterances and decisions on this matter.

I thank you.

[Handwritten scribbles and signatures at the bottom left of the page.]