

HURIWA TO DORO: Wake up, hunger biting millions of Nigerians

Pro-democracy and civil rights advocacy group HUMAN RIGHTS WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (HURIWA) has warned that hunger has become increasingly dangerous and widespread demanding that the near-moribund Federal ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction must be revitalized by the new Minister Dr. Bernard M. Doro who officially assumed duty on November 1st 2025.

HURIWA said if the new Minister lacks what it takes to revive that dead ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction, then president Bola Ahmed Tinubu should appoint a much more competent person to head the

force in volatile contexts,” said Sarah Longford, Deputy Regional Director for West and Central Africa. “The reduced funding we saw in 2025 has deepened hunger and malnutrition across the region. As needs outpace funding, so too does the risk of young people falling into desperation. It's critical that we support communities in crisis, so that rampant hunger doesn't drive further unrest, displacement and conflict across the region.”

The Rights group remarked that the admission by the WFP that a toxic combination of surging conflict, displacement, and economic turmoil has been driving hunger in the region, but reductions in humanitarian assistance are now pushing communities beyond their ability to cope, must immediately become the tonic for the ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction to wake up from slumber and demonstrate to millions of poor Nigerians that government hasn't abandoned the poor to their cruel fate.

HURIWA recalled that the World Food Programme had also cautioned that the current dire funding outlook threatens to deepen the hunger crisis even further. In Cameroon,

without urgent funding, more than half a million vulnerable people are at-risk of being cut off from life-saving assistance in the coming weeks. In Nigeria, WFP will only be able to reach 72,000 people in February, a drastic reduction from the 1.3 million assisted during the 2025 lean season. With adequate funding, WFP has consistently delivered measurable impacts that improve food security through resilience, social protection, and anticipatory action. Land restoration in the Sahel, for example, generates up to USD30 for every dollar spent. Since 2018, WFP and communities have rehabilitated 300,000 hectares of farmland across five countries to support more than four million people in over 3,400 villages.

ministry given the expanding numbers of starving citizens of Nigeria. HURIWA is also worried that the ministry of women and children's affairs has been ineffective and inefficient since the current administration came on board.

Besides, HURIWA reminded the government that the decision of the world superpower the USA to drastically cut down food aid should be a wakeup call for Nigerian government through the Federal ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction to transparently implement initiatives to empower millions of poverty stricken Nigerians so they can become productive and develop the capacity to put foods on their tables and meet other basic necessities of life including the schooling of their children.

HURIWA said the country must attentively listen to the World Food Programme which recently warned that "Vital humanitarian aid is a transformative and stabilizing

HURIWA expressed consternation and shock that an estimated 34.7 million Nigerians, including over 650,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) across Borno, Sokoto,



and Zamfara States, are projected to face Crisis (CH Phase 3) or worse levels of food insecurity between June and August 2026, according to the latest national food and nutrition security analysis. The report, titled “Cadre Harmonisé Fiche: Acute Food and Nutrition Insecurity Analysis,” was prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in partnership with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS). It provides an updated assessment for October–December 2025 and projections for June–August 2026, covering 27 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

HURIWA recalled that the website of the Federal ministry of information and National Orientation reported that the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction, Dr. Bernard M. Doro, on November 1st 2025 officially assumed office at the Ministry's Headquarters Federal Secretariat, Abuja following his appointment and inauguration by His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR.

Dr. Doro succeeded Professor Nentawe Goshwe Yilwatda, who has been appointed the National Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC). In his maiden address, the Honourable Minister, expressed gratitude for the warm welcome extended to him by the leadership and staff of the Ministry. “It feels like a family, I want to understudy the culture here and be part of it. The positive aspects of our culture will be maintained, and where we need to adjust, we will challenge ourselves to do better.” The website reported that the Minister of State, Dr. Yusuf Tanko Sununu, in his welcome remarks, congratulated Dr. Doro on his assumption of office, describing him as a “close friend and capable leader whose expertise will enrich the humanitarian and social protection landscape.” Dr. Sununu reflected on the tenure of the outgoing Minister, Professor Nentawe Yilwatda, commending his team spirit, humility, and exemplary leadership, which, he said, contributed to the confidence Mr. President placed in him to now lead Nigeria's ruling party.

He enumerated the Ministry's recent achievements and milestones, which includes; the National Social Register (NSR), which now captures 19.8 million households (over 90 million Nigerians) — the largest social database in Africa; Successful integration of the National Social Register (NSR) with the National Identification Number (NIN) to promote transparency, inclusion, and digital access and implementation of Conditional Cash Transfers (CCT) reaching over 8.8 million Nigerians, with upcoming tranches to be publicly announced for transparency.

Others are the Launch of the “Skill to Wealth Initiative”, which focuses on three thematic areas; automobile maintenance, computer diagnostics, and solar technology and Agriculture, providing youth with vocational skills; The National Policy on Cash Transfer, ensuring that all financial assistance to Nigerians is delivered with respect and dignity; Strengthened international partnerships for humanitarian and social intervention programmes; Ongoing repatriation of Nigerians and the establishment of the Renewed Hope Resettlement City in Nasarawa

State, commissioned by the First Lady, Her Excellency Senator Oluremi Tinubu, among others.

HURIWA however expressed strong doubts, deep concern that the aforementioned achievements claimed by the ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction exists only on paper because clearly, with the projection that hunger would become more widespread this year as estimated by global food experts, it is evident that millions of heavily impoverished and starving Nigerians who need the interventions of the Federal and state governments are not getting the assistance. “The ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction is characterised by secretive and opaque methodology of reaching out to poor citizens even as most of their claims are not backed up by any scientific and empirical body of evidence but are mere media propaganda.

HURIWA claimed that in most urban areas in the Country, there is a growing trend of starving Nigerians including hundreds of thousands of children who are obviously miling around traffic stops in cities and towns of Nigeria begging for food just as HURIWA challenges the federal government to publish verifiable lists of those benefitting from the interventions of the inefficient and ineffective Federal ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction. “Everywhere you go in Nigeria, you see young girls fainting on the streets whilst searching for foods to feed their infants tied to their backs.

HURIWA pointed to a particular distressing incident that reportedly occurred on Monday at Igando Omolade Bus Stop, Lagos, whereby A lady collapsed, and despite our efforts to assist her, we were unable to find any contact information for her family members. Her phone did not have a SIM card, making it impossible to trace her relatives. The Rights group said the information was copied from a social media post on X@ArchSadam.

The Rights group further asserted that the owner of the social media handle that posted the photos of the fainted girl and the baby said thus: “We reported the incident to the Igando Police Station, and they took her to Alimosho General Hospital, Igando. According to eyewitnesses, the lady was often seen begging for food for her 7-month-old baby, who was with her at the time of the incident. One witness mentioned that she had previously approached a food vendor seeking employment, but was told that she couldn't be hired with a baby. We suspect that hunger might have contributed to her collapse. Unfortunately, she remains unconscious and unresponsive. We pray for her recovery.”

HURIWA also urges the Lagos state governor to make inquiries about the aforementioned case and offer immediate remedial redress so the young single mother does not die from hunger just as her 7-months infant should be assisted, HURIWA asserted.

HURIWA TO FGN: free the 176 kidnapped Kwara residents from terrorists' now

Demanding the immediate release by the federal government of Nigeria of the 176 citizens violently abducted by terrorists from Kwara state, the HUMAN RIGHTS WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (HURIWA) has also called on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to declare a state of emergency to effectively implement holistic security measures to crush the terrorists that have invaded many rural areas of Kwara state. The Rights group argued that governance has invariably collapsed in Kwara state which is characterized by cocktails of bloodbath and clearly the Kwara State governor doesn't have what it takes to protect his people.

"Isn't it a big shame that the Kwara State government allegedly claimed that only few citizens were kidnapped whereas the terrorists have reportedly played video evidence to disprove this poor propaganda put up by Kwara state government and these terrorists have claimed based on video evidence that over 176 citizens were violently kidnapped by terrorists? Are government officials both in Kwara and the federal government of Nigeria not ashamed that terrorists are operating freely wherever they chose to operate in Nigeria? This is tragically shameful.

HURIWA quoting media report alleged that suspected Boko Haram terrorists, formally known as Jama'atu Ahlissunnah Lidda'awati wal-Jihad, have circulated a disturbing video showing 176 abducted victims — including women, children and a nursing mother — allegedly taken from Woro community in Kaiama Local Government Area of Kwara State.

HURIWA reacted thus: "It is so unfortunate and disgraceful that the Kwara State governor has demonstrated a lack of ideas and zero knowledge of any sort of workable modalities, strategic approaches and efficient measures to protect the good people of Kwara state. The truth is that there is no functional government right now in Kwara state.

"With the killings of over 300 citizens this year alone in Kwara state, we think it is time that President Tinubu should impose a state of emergency and put security infrastructure in place to decimate, degrade and destroy the terrorists. The most important task for President Tinubu is to ensure the safe return of the 176 citizens kidnapped by terrorists and are being kept in intolerable situation of emotional, psychological and cruel physical torture by the terrorists. "We demand that the mass murderers and terrorists must never be allowed to go without facing the wrath of the law if Nigeria is not a failed state. Only in a failed state can you see terrorists kill citizens at will and no kind of justice is imposed to punish the killers of citizens."

HURIWA recalled that not a person was killed in Rivers state before President Bola Ahmed Tinubu imposed a state of emergency leading to the illegal suspension of the governor and Rivers state House of Assembly for 6 months which some incompetent and pliant justices of the supreme Court of Nigeria okayed. So the situation is long overdue for a declaration of security emergency in Kwara state."

HURIWA cited media report as saying that in the video, one of the



terrorists is seen interrogating the captives, asking them to state where they were kidnapped. Responding in Hausa language, three women, including a nursing mother, answered one after the other that they were abducted at Woro community in Kaiama Local Government Area of Kwara State. The footage shows dozens of women and children arranged in rows, many appearing visibly distressed. Their clothing looked dirty and worn, while some of the children were seen without trousers, suggesting the harsh conditions in which they are being held.

During the display of the captives, one of the terrorists accused the Kwara State government of misleading Nigerians and the international community about the scale of the abduction.

According to the terrorist in the video, the state government claimed that only between 20 and 30 people were kidnapped, whereas he insisted that 176 victims were in their custody.

"The Kwara State government lied to Nigeria and to the whole world," the terrorist alleged, insisting that the number of abducted persons was far higher than officially acknowledged.

In a media statement, Comrade Emmanuel Nnadozie Onwubiko, the National Coordinator of HUMAN RIGHTS WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (HURIWA) called for the swift rescue of the captured Nigerians by the federal government of Nigeria and for concrete steps to be adopted to put to an end the constant bloodshed in Kwara state.

HURIWA lamented that the president of Nigeria is being allowed to violate his constitutional oath of office which obliges him to primarily protect the lives and property of the citizens. "Protecting lives and property of the good people of Nigeria is the fundamental legal obligation of the government and consistent failures to arrest the tides of cruel killings in massive scale of citizens by terrorists and armed non-state actors in Nigeria is absolutely appalling, despicable and condemnable."