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September 14th, 2020

**Report delivered on ARMED CONFLICTS BESETTING THE REPUBLIC OF NIGER,
September 14th, 2020**

The International Human Rights Commission in late August 2020 reported that human rights issues in the Republic of Niger included unlawful killings and forced disappearances by the government, allied militias, terrorists, and armed groups; arbitrary arrest and detention by government security forces and armed groups; harsh and life-threatening prison and detention center conditions; political prisoners; substantial interference with the rights of peaceful assembly and freedom of association; reported government support of Malian armed groups accused of unlawful recruitment or use of child soldiers; trafficking in persons; lack of accountability for cases of violence against women due in part to government inaction; caste-based slavery and forced labor, especially forced or compulsory or child labor have continued in the Republic of Niger, a West African nation.

Ambassador at Large / Special Envoy of the International Human Rights Council Amb. Dr. Haissam Bou-Said hails the government of the Republic of Niger on taken some steps to prosecute officials who committed abuses, but has revealed that impunity remains a problem.

Despite the collaborative efforts with neighboring nations in the fight on terrorism, it is dismaying that terrorists groups target and kill civilians while recruiting child soldiers. Nothing concrete has been initiated by the Government of the country to end terrorists attacks and the action of the Government as reported that it provided some limited material and logistical support in Niger to a Mali-based militia, the Imghad Tuareg and Allies Self-Defense Group (GATIA), a group that has been reported to recruit and use child soldiers is rather aimed at promoting more attacks than abetting according to the view of Dr. Tivlumun Innocent Ahure who was mandated as field inspector by Amb. Bou-Said.

The report of the IHRC fully attests the failure of the government's initiatives although the Government makes claims of involvement in campaigns against terrorist groups on its borders with Mali, Nigeria, Cameroon, and Chad. IHRC report describes a loose situation



and asserts that terror attacks in Burkina Faso and spillover from insecurity in Libya are the other ways by which terrorists groups would increase their reign in Niger.

Thank you

Yours sincerely

Amb. Dr. HAISSAM BOU-SAID
Special Envoy to Geneva

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "H. Bou-Said", is written on a light-colored rectangular background.

