



National Office
4 Champion St
DEAKIN ACT 2600

T 02 6259 0431
F 02 6259 0462

E natoffice@acl.org.au
W acl.org.au

ABN 40 075 120 517

MEDIA RELEASE

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Australian Government urged to speak out against Nigerian Christian massacre

The Australian Christian Lobby (ACL) today called on the Federal Government to register its concern over the massacre of up to 500 Christians near the Nigerian city of Jos and to be more active in assisting persecuted people groups overseas.

ACL Managing Director Jim Wallace urged the Federal Government not only to join international calls from the US and others for the perpetrators to be brought to justice but also to work with the international community to try to ensure the horrific violence of last weekend is not repeated.

“The accounts of women and children being hacked to death with knives and machetes would sicken anyone. However this is clearly a cycle of violence that will be repeated unless the international community – including Australia – takes greater action,” Mr Wallace said.

“The Federal Government also needs to be more vocal in promoting the cause of persecuted people groups in other countries – such as the Coptics in Egypt, and the Mandaean and Christians in Iraq. As a leading influence in the international community, Australia should not be silent in speaking out against gross human rights violations.”

Media Contact: *Glynis Quinlan on 0408 875 979.*