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CORRESPONDENTS' REPORTS

NIGERIA¹

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Treaty Action — Establishment of the Nigerian IHL National Committee

A National International Humanitarian Law Committee was inaugurated by the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice on 23 July 2010. The Committee is under the Chairmanship and secretariat of Solicitor-General of the Federation and Permanent Secretary. The Representatives of the Committee include members of the Ministries of Justice, Foreign Affairs, Interior, Finance, Tourism Culture and National Orientation, Defence, Health, Education, the Defence Headquarters, the National Human Rights Commission, the National Commission for Refugees, the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Ministry of Women affairs and Social Development, academia and the Secretary-General of the Nigerian Red Cross Society.

The mandate of the Committee is to serve as an important point of contact in relation to the adoption and national implementation of IHL treaties and also to support national authorities in these tasks; to submit advisory opinions to national authorities; to assist the government in implementing and disseminating IHL; to evaluate existing national law and to make recommendations for further implementation. Its purpose is encompassed in the wider perspective of promoting respect for IHL, human rights, and serves as a vehicle for building public confidence and trust in the legal process.²

DAN KUWALI

¹ Information and commentaries by Lt Colonel Dr. Dan Kuwali, Post Doctoral Research Fellow, Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria, Senior Researcher, Centre for Conflict Resolution, University of Cape Town and Deputy Chief of Legal Services, Malawi Defence Force, Malawi.

² ICRC, 'Table of National Committees and Other National Bodies on International Humanitarian Law' (31 October 2011) <<http://www.icrc.org/eng/assets/files/other/national-committes-icrc-30-10-2011-eng.pdf>>.