

*Human Rights Council – 35th session
Item 3 – General Debate*

Speaker: Albert Hengelaar

Tuesday 13 June 2017



Mr. President,

The World Evangelical Alliance is thankful for the launch of the human rights Mapping report in the Central African Republic. It is an important contribution when past human rights violations are brought to light to open the way for true reconciliation.

In the context of the crisis that started in 2012, CAR shows some remarkable dynamic for peace. This process was broad and self-induced by CAR citizens. The recent acts of violence in several places are a major setback.

Regretfully, UN Special Representative Parfait Onanga-Anyanga was quick to identify Muslims as the main targets. During a recent OCHA briefing, Humanitarian Coordinator Mrs. Rochdi underlined that the struggle is not a religious conflict. Solidarity among plural communities does exist. This is the litmus test for SDG16, the global drive for peaceful countries.

The impressive statement of the leader of the CAR Evangelical Alliance should be heard. In the renewed atrocities he lost his brother and nephew, but he urged the authorities to be responsible and citizens to continue the drive for peace and reconciliation. The Human Rights Council would do well to promote such unarmed, unprotected and wise response to violence.

We thank you Mr. President.