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From: SecureNigeria <info@securenigeria.com>
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ICYMI: Reporting Beyond the Bubble,
A Firsthand Look at Nigeria's Security Crisis



Photojournalist Flip Holsinger (center) accompanies Nigerian security forces on patrol in the North Central States

While it is easy for [activists](#) and [policy analysts](#) to opine about Nigeria's security crisis from cushy offices in New York and Washington, one reporter chose to see it for himself. Writing last week in the [Daily Caller](#), award-winning journalist Flip Holsinger traveled to some of Nigeria's hardest-hit regions to gain a firsthand understanding of both the violence and the government's response.

Unsurprisingly, what he found traveling across the North Central states challenges the dominant Western narrative. Rather than widespread religious conflict, Christians and Muslims often live side by side peacefully. Contrary to claims of state-sanctioned genocide, the Tinubu administration is actively deploying troops to protect vulnerable communities.

Holsinger spoke directly with Christian and Muslim community members affected by the violence. Many described the range of threats they face daily while emphasizing the diversity and cohesion of their communities. As one Christian leader, Rev. Idi, [explained](#): "We live in peace in this town. We share gifts between Muslims and Christians. Now we are all fasting together."

Holsinger [underscored](#) the complexity of the conflict: *“I interviewed dozens of kidnapping victims, survivors of mass killings, clergy, Imams, security officials, herders, and farmers. None said religion alone explained the violence they had witnessed. Some described religious tension. Others pointed to ethnic conflict, land disputes, banditry, cattle theft, reprisals, and financially motivated kidnapers who target places where people gather, including houses of worship.”*

Holsinger [observed](#) a sustained and deliberate response from the Tinubu administration: *“soldiers patrolling constantly between villages, responding to reports of armed movement, and placing themselves between communities that expect retaliation after every attack.”*

Holsinger’s reporting offers a more nuanced picture of Nigeria’s security challenges; one that policymakers and analysts alike would benefit from engaging more directly with before drawing ill-informed conclusions that do nothing to solve the crisis.

Interested in learning more about the security situation in Nigeria?

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