
From: SecureNigeria [REDACTED]
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To:
Subject: The U.S.-Nigeria Counterterrorism Partnership Is Working — and Professional Activists Can't Stand It

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**The U.S.-Nigeria Counterterrorism Partnership
Is Working — and Professional Activists Can't
Stand It**



Nigerian Security Forces Patrol Frontline Villages in Kaduna State. Photo credit: Philip "Flip" Holsinger

In a single month, Nigeria eliminated a top ISIS commander, executed the largest drug bust in its history, and earned its first credit rating upgrade in fourteen years, so why is the American professional activist class trying to tear it all down?

First, a quick reminder of the U.S.-Nigeria security partnership's recent wins.

- On May 16, U.S. and Nigerian forces [conducted joint counterterrorism operations](#) in the country's northeast, eliminating 175 ISIS fighters, including Abu Bilal al-Minuki, the second highest-ranking ISIS leader in the world. U.S. Africa Command leader Gen. Dagvin Anderson credited Nigeria as instrumental to the mission, noting it "[could not have been done by our own forces... we needed to do that in conjunction with them](#)" — a powerful testament to what this partnership can achieve.
- Then, Nigeria's NDLEA delivered the [largest drug bust](#) in the country's history, seizing narcotics worth approximately \$363 million and dismantling an industrial-scale methamphetamine operation across Ogun and Lagos State. Not only did the [operation](#) remove millions of drugs from Nigeria's streets, it also dealt a decisive blow to the criminal networks that fund terrorism and fuel regional instability.
- On the economic front, S&P [upgraded](#) Nigeria's sovereign credit rating for the first time in fourteen years, with the increase driven by President Tinubu's sweeping reforms and increased domestic oil production. With international confidence in Nigeria's economic future growing, it's no surprise that senior Trump Administration officials, including U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer, held [high-level meetings](#) with Nigeria's Trade Minister to explore expanded U.S. investment in Nigeria's energy and critical minerals sectors.

Security, stability, and economic growth: the Tinubu administration is delivering on all fronts, and the U.S.-Nigeria partnership is stronger than ever.

Failed Ex-Mayor Questions Trump's Counterterrorism Wins

Despite measurable progress in the U.S.-Nigeria security partnership, a one-term mayor and professional activist, Mike Arnold, is determined to undermine President Trump's strategy at every turn, most recently by [attacking](#) award-winning journalist Philip "Flip" Holsinger rather than engaging with his reporting. The contrast between the two men is telling.

Instead of asking Nigerian Christians how they feel about the security surge, as Flip did in [countless interviews and conversations](#), Arnold speaks over them, [twisting their stories](#) for his own agenda.

Instead of traveling to the front lines of Nigeria's security crisis, as Flip did across [Plateau, Kaduna, Benue, and Niger](#) states, Arnold wages war from a keyboard in his Texas home, [bankrolled](#) by well-meaning American Christians.

Instead of confronting the dangerous propaganda of paid activists like Alex Barbir, who are actively [inciting religious violence](#) and endangering Christians, as Flip did in a [recent video](#), Arnold pours [fuel on the fire](#), wielding terms like "genocide" and "atrocities" in pursuit of his ultimate goal: the breakup of Nigeria.

And most tellingly, instead of celebrating the progress of the U.S.-Nigeria security partnership, as Flip did in a recent [Washington Examiner op-ed](#), Arnold has worked to undermine its most momentous victory: the elimination of ISIS leader Abu Bilal al-Minuki. On the day of the successful operation, Arnold [posted](#) on X claiming the Nigerian military had already killed al-Minuki two years prior, then questioned the entire mission, writing: "[How do you kill a dead man? You don't. Either the 2024 announcement was a lie, or the 2026 announcement is. Or both are spin. Take your pick.](#)"

Arnold has questioned the Trump-Tinubu partnership [before](#), so while the accusation is not surprising, it is still exceedingly reckless. The operation was real and successful, and it is saving Nigerian Christians and Americans alike from ISIS-linked terrorism.

Secretary of War, Pete Hegseth, Talks Killing Terrorists and Protecting Nigerian Christians

This week during a cabinet meeting at the White House, Secretary of War Pete Hegseth [underscored](#) that President Trump holds defeating ISIS and protecting Christians as a top national security priority and tasked Secretary Hegseth to work hand in hand with the Nigerian government to do so.

Highlighting Nigeria's role in recent counterterrorism operations, Hegseth said, "[Partnerships like that that can take time behind the scenes, but \[Trump\] never wavered on it. And we got the assets there and over the last month, and there hasn't been much coverage of this, we killed ISIS number two in Nigeria who is most responsible for killing Christians in Nigeria and trying to target the US homeland, and have since, because of](#)

the intel we gathered killed hundreds of ISIS members who were targeting and killing Christians in Nigeria, creating a whole new opportunity there"

President Trump, Secretary Hegseth, and U.S. Africa Command have all made clear that the U.S.-Nigeria partnership and the strong trust between President Trump and President Tinubu have been foundational to the success of joint counterterrorism operations.

Yet, Mike Arnold and his cadre of paid activists persist in casting doubt on U.S. counterterrorism successes, not only questioning the veracity of successful U.S. counterterrorism actions, but the very integrity of President Trump and his national security team. Arnold is showing his true colors, and they certainly aren't red, white, and blue.

You Are Who Your Friends Are — And Mike Arnold's Friends Say It All

Arnold's credibility problems extend beyond his rhetoric to the company he keeps. He recently partnered with pastor Charles Flowers, founder of San Antonio in Black, White, and Brown (SABWB), and Stephen Osemwegie of Save Nigeria Group USA for a Nigerian advocacy conference in San Antonio.

Flowers has a deeply troubling history. Before founding SABWB, he ran a Christian boot camp for girls. He was charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon after tying a 15-year-old girl to a van and dragging her along the ground when she refused to continue an exercise run. Even though Flowers admitted to tying the girl to his car at trial, he was granted a mistrial, while his victim was left with severe injuries and no justice.

For someone who claims to champion Nigerian Christians, Arnold's close association with Flowers is abhorrent and raises an obvious question: where do vulnerable Christian Americans, particularly children, fit into his moral compass?

Mike Arnold Has No Shame

Wielding propaganda and cartoonish AI posters, Arnold tries to shame his opponents to stop them from speaking the truth about what is really going on in Nigeria. The truth is President Tinubu is working tirelessly every day, with the help of President Trump and his team, to end terrorism, protect Christians, and build a prosperous society for all Nigerians.

Arnold can't stomach this progress. Every time he posts an outlandish claim or aligns himself with a nefarious character, his follower count increases. His incessant musings are simply clickbait.

Yet his actions do nothing to protect the Nigerian Christians he claims to care about. In fact, by questioning the credibility of U.S.-Nigerian counterterrorism operations and inciting religious tensions, Arnold is putting Nigerian Christians at risk.

Arnold is a man utterly devoid of shame, who has nevertheless made shaming others the centerpiece of his strategy, because silencing the truth is the only tool left for someone with nothing credible to say.

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