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Successful U.S.-Nigeria Counterterrorism Operations Cut Through the Noise



Security forces patrol frontline communities in Plateau State, Nigeria

The U.S.-Nigeria security partnership and counterterrorism operations against ISIS and other terrorists are working according to the U.S. military.

During a House Armed Services Committee hearing this week, U.S. Africa Command leader Gen. Dagvin Anderson [praised](#) the bilateral effort, pointing to a major counterterrorism victory that eliminated 175 ISIS fighters, including Abu Bilal al Minuki, the second-highest-ranking ISIS leader in the world.

Underscoring Nigeria's critical role in the operation, Anderson [said](#), *"The Nigerians have been instrumental throughout the last several months, developing the target, helping us with the intelligence, and providing support in order to do that. So, it could not have been done by our own forces that we needed to do that in conjunction with them...The operation over the weekend built a lot of that credibility of what the U.S. can bring, and that those unique capabilities can be brought to bear in conjunction with our partners."*

Anderson also [stressed](#) this coordination must continue, noting that while al Minuki's death dealt a significant blow to ISIS's global operations, a sustained, partner-led approach will be necessary to permanently weaken terrorist networks in West Africa.

With shared security interests and shared democratic values, Nigeria has become an indispensable partner in the U.S. counterterrorism strategy across the region.

Comrades in Disinformation: Paid Activists Grow More Desperate

Despite this week's momentous success, professional activists are still trying to turn a profit, regardless of the potential consequences for U.S. national security or their own

credibility. But as the U.S.-Nigeria delivers real progress, their claims have only become more outlandish and desperate.

Meet Lara Logan, the latest influencer parroting propaganda from President Tinubu's political opponents on the security situation in Nigeria.

In the event readers are unfamiliar with Ms. Logan, here's a quick tutorial: She was [put on leave](#) by CBS and later [pushed out](#) of Fox News.

Now, she's turned her sights on President Tinubu under the guise of protecting Christians.

Last week, Logan posted [eight times](#) in a single hour about Nigeria, a flurry that raises an obvious question about who, exactly, is behind it.

Then, Logan showed her cards by amplifying Alex Barbir, the disgraced, radicalized American [expelled from Nigeria](#) for inciting religious violence.

The timing is notable: a few days before, award-winning conflict journalist Flip Holsinger reported in the [Washington Examiner](#) that President Tinubu's security surge is making real progress in dismantling terrorist networks.

Given how sharply Logan's account diverges from what reporters on the ground are actually finding, it's fair to ask what incentive she has to say otherwise.

Not to be outdone by his newest comrade in disinformation, professional activist Alex Barbir also continued in his attempts to undermine President Trump's security partnership with Nigeria.

Last week, Barbir, armchairing a religious war from his basement after being expelled from Nigeria, shared a [video](#) of an alleged attack by militant Fulani at a community burial ceremony. Immediately, [Plateau State Police Command](#) discredited Barbir's post, saying that the attack had not taken place, a statement confirmed by [Caleb Muftwang, Governor of Plateau State](#), who said the video was a fake designed to cause a panic. This is not the first time Barbir has weaponized disinformation to [incite violence](#) with profound consequences for the people of Nigeria.

Does Mike Arnold Want More Violence?

Meanwhile, Mike Arnold's reaction to the joint operation was telling. Instead of celebrating the elimination of a key global ISIS leader, Arnold [lashed](#) out at President Trump, [claimed](#) the U.S. and Nigerian governments were lying about the targets of the strike, and [smeared](#) an independent journalist covering President Tinubu's security surge in the North Central states.

The allegations themselves, often accompanied by bizarre [AI-generated cartoons](#) or photo-ops of Arnold with Nigerian children he has supposedly "saved", are difficult to take seriously. But they do reveal something important about Arnold's broader agenda: he appears more interested in fueling chaos and political outrage than defeating terrorists, and supporting solutions that could bring greater peace, stability, and prosperity to Nigerian communities.

In many ways, Arnold has been building toward this narrative for weeks. In early May, he [accused](#) the Nigerian government of being complicit in the country's ongoing security crisis, a claim that, by extension, also implicates President Trump, given his administration's close security partnership with President Tinubu.

As Holsinger argued in a [recent op-ed](#), portraying the Tinubu government as complicit in a supposed "*Christian genocide*" does not simply undermine Nigeria's leadership. It also suggests that President Trump is being manipulated by the very actors his administration is working alongside to combat terrorism and restore regional stability.

For a man who considers himself a strong supporter of the President, a lot of cognitive dissonance must be required.

Rooting for the Wrong Team

Not to be outdone by paid American influencers, Tinubu's political opponents have gone to outrageous lengths to set themselves apart from the pack.

Rather than acknowledging how the U.S.-Nigeria security partnership is protecting Christians and advancing American national security interests, the [mouthpiece](#) of Tinubu's political opposition in Washington had the audacity to criticize President Trump's counterterrorism strategy in Nigeria, [saying](#), "*U.S. military strikes against terrorists in Northern Nigeria are not sustainable...the terrorists simply hide and resume their crimes once the bombing ends.*" This comment, and its disregard for the victims of ISIS who are now free from constant threat, comes just days after a similar post [questioning](#) Vice President Vance and Secretary Rubio for meeting with Nigeria's national security adviser.

Timeout.

To be clear, Van Batten represents Atiku Abubakar, an opposition leader of the defunct African Democratic Congress (ADC), who has run for and lost the presidency of [Nigeria six times](#). Clearly, the people of Nigeria are not buying what he is selling.

The arrogance from Atiku's man in Washington is remarkable, but the consequences are significant. Rhetoric like this serves two purposes: denigrate President Trump's efforts to support Nigeria, and delegitimize President Tinubu's efforts to root out terrorists and keep Nigeria united, not broken up. It's a dangerous game these opponents are playing. Tinubu and Trump are deadly serious about tackling Nigeria's security crisis, and their progress, including ongoing security operations, speaks for itself.

President Tinubu Ignores the Noise and Delivers Results

While professional activists and political opportunists continue pushing sensational narratives online, the facts on the ground tell a different story: terrorists are being eliminated, networks are being dismantled, and the U.S.-Nigeria alliance is producing real security gains.

The partnership between President Trump and President Tinubu is focused on results, not rhetoric. As ongoing counterterrorism operations continue to degrade ISIS capabilities across the region, that progress is becoming increasingly difficult for critics to ignore.

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