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Sent: Monday, September 21, 2026 1:53 PM
To:
Subject: BBC Confirms Activists Fabricated Claims That "Palm Sunday" Attack Targeted Christians in Jos

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**BBC Confirms Activists Fabricated Claims That
"Palm Sunday" Attack Targeted Christians in Jos**



Award-winning conflict reporter Philip "Flip" Holsinger debunks Alex Barbir's viral propaganda that incited religious violence in Jos, Plateau State, following the so-called "Pam Sunday Attack"

When award-winning conflict reporter Philip "Flip" Holsinger grew skeptical of the inflammatory, staged-looking social media posts flooding out of Jos after the so-called Palm Sunday attack, he did what most Western journalists never bother to do: he went there. He traveled to Plateau State to get the [real story](#), and what he found bore little resemblance to the version going viral online.

Months later, a new BBC Africa Eye documentary, [Nigeria: Faith, Fear and Fake News](#), corroborated his findings. And in the process, it confirmed what Secure Nigeria has said all along: "Christian Genocide Inc." is working to repackage a [security crisis](#) — one in which terrorists kill Nigerians of every faith — as a "religious war" between the country's Muslims and Christians. That framing is inflammatory, baseless, and dangerous.

The BBC was a little slow on the uptake; that is no surprise. But the documentary is still essential, because the flood of propaganda from paid activists has only increased. What these activists won't tell you, and may not even grasp themselves, is that [stapling religion](#) onto a conflict driven largely by land disputes, economic pressure, and tribal warfare isn't just false; it's reckless. It puts Nigerian Christians in greater danger while erasing the many Muslim victims who have lost their lives and livelihoods too. That's not just anti-Christian and anti-American — it's plain wrong.

Yet even after Holsinger reported from the front lines, and even after the BBC laid out the facts, activists like Judd Saul, Nina Shea, Alex Barbir, and Tibor Nagy Jr. keep reciting the same dangerous talking points. We're not naïve enough to think any of this will change their minds; Holsinger's work didn't. But the truth is worth spelling out anyway — including one bombshell admission that came straight from the mouth of one of Judd Saul's own "reporters."

Starting with Jos.

The Palm Sunday “Jos Attack” Hoax

What Holsinger found on the ground, and what the BBC later corroborated, was not only different from highly fabricated versions from professional activists like Alex Barbir; it was far more nuanced than most media outlets reported.

Christians were [not targeted](#). Terrorists opened fire on a busy street in the early hours of the morning, not on a church during Palm Sunday service. And, most importantly, Muslims [were killed too](#), not only in the initial attack but in the days that followed, as posts from the likes of Barbir encouraged reprisal attacks against Muslim communities.

The BBC interviewed a Muslim man, Aminu Ibrahim, whose brother "[Haruna was killed and his body set alight](#)" during the reprisals. Aminu recalled seeing Barbir's videos in the days after the attack and wondering, "[Is it because they are Muslims that is why they have been killed?](#)"

The pattern is hard to miss, as the documentary lays out: "[As a result of that attack and then the misinformation that went viral, there were reprisal attacks and counterattacks for a couple of days, and it led to the deaths of many people. Many were injured.](#)"

The violence and interreligious tension ran so deep that even some of the most hardened professional activists were frightened. Speaking about Barbir's role after the Jos attack, Truth Nigeria's own reporter Masara Kim admitted: "[Social media is helping to bring attention to the situation...But I must admit also that it is stirring up a revolution and contributing to what we now see as reprisal attacks and even religious wars in various communities.](#)"

Yet despite conceding that posts like his own fuel more violence and inflame religious tensions that weren't there before, Kim keeps reporting for Truth Nigeria, and his articles remain full of sensationalized stories and propaganda.

If Kim and Barbir want to stop the violence and protect Nigeria's Christians, they should start by toning down the rhetoric. President Tinubu's [security surge](#) is already making significant progress against terrorists in the North Central states, and if Nigeria's Muslims and Christians were united rather than divided by propaganda, that response would be stronger still.

Sadly, we have little hope that activists like Kim and Barbir will ever see the light. They won't stop until they manufacture the very crisis they claim to be reporting, a false narrative that, left unchecked, could take hold in Nigeria and tip the country toward civil war.

The BBC Unmasks Intersociety's Unscientific Data Collection

The lazy reporting that fueled the Jos reprisals starts with lazy data. Serious security experts have long questioned how activist groups arrive at their casualty counts, which run consistently — and conveniently — higher than official

figures or the data published by ACLED, an outfit that even the Hudson Institute's Nina Shea concedes is the "[*most trusted source for gathering conflict data*](#)."

Judd Saul spelled out Truth Nigeria's methodology at a recent Hudson Institute event: "So when there's an attack, we send a journalist... We ask the questions: '[*Who killed you? By the way, are you Christian? What churches do you go to?*](#)'" With a method that's so ideological, and one that often just assumes the victim's religion, it's no shock that Truth Nigeria keeps arriving at sky-high Christian death tolls.

Intersociety, a Nigerian activist group routinely cited by U.S. and U.K. lawmakers, may be lazier still. As a BBC fact-checking analyst puts it: "[*If there's an attack, they sum it up to say that those that were, you know, that have been killed will likely be Christians and decide that because the community is a predominantly Christian community, then the majority must necessarily be Christian.*](#)"

That approach ignores a few [*inconvenient facts*](#). Most attacks happen either in Nigeria's northern states, whose populations are almost entirely Muslim, or in the North Central states, which are split roughly evenly between Muslims and Christians. And it's not just that sizable Muslim populations exist; Muslims and Christians often live side by side, sometimes in the same household. So, when an attack occurs near a Christian village, and Intersociety logs every victim as Christian, there's no reason to trust the tally, because at the end of the day it's a guess. For the survivors in those communities, Christian and Muslim alike, the consequences are anything but hypothetical.

This lazy reporting is exactly what led to more violence after the Jos attack.

The BBC Exposes the Absurd Logic Behind "Christian Genocide"

What makes the "Christian Genocide" narrative so frustrating is that you only have to scratch the surface to see it's fabricated and built on absurd logic.

But of course, professional activists never look deeper — or they twist themselves into an ideological pretzel to keep the story consistent.

Go to the front-line communities, as Flip did, and you quickly realize not only that Muslims are victims too, but that Christians are sometimes [*perpetrators*](#). Consider the Fulani herding community the BBC interviewed, who described attacks by Christian farmers: "[*they will at times come with them on a motorcycle with guns. They will just shoot or rustle the cow.*](#)" Few newspapers cover these attacks on Fulani Muslim communities because they don't fit the prevailing narrative — but as President Tinubu and the Nigerian government understand, you have to understand a problem before you can fix it.

The BBC's Adejuwon Soyinka took on the nonsensical logic of "Christian Genocide Inc." head-on: "[*This is where it beats logic, because the wife of the president, for instance, is not just a Christian; she's a pastor. The governor of Plateau State is a Christian. The chairman of Jos local government, where the Palm Sunday attack*](#)

happened, is also a Christian. Now, are we suggesting that these Christians are presiding over the process of exterminating fellow Christians? That doesn't add up. It simply just doesn't make sense."

Soyinka is right: it doesn't make sense. We know it. So do Nina Shea, Alex Barbir, and all the rest.

The narrative continues anyway, because these activists benefit from it. One can only hope that more of them follow Masara Kim toward the truth, and find the courage to take the step Kim did not, by calling out the propaganda that does nothing but put the very people they claim to champion at greater risk.

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