
From: SecureNigeria [REDACTED]
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To:
Subject: Secretary Rubio Highlights U.S.-Nigeria Partnership on the 66th Anniversary of Nigerian Independence

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**Secretary Rubio Highlights U. S.-Nigeria
Partnership on the 66th Anniversary of
Nigerian Independence**



U. S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio greets Nigerian National Security Adviser Nuhu Ribadu at the White House in May 2026.

Last week, Secretary of State Marco Rubio [congratulated](#) the people of Nigeria on the 66th anniversary of Nigerian independence and celebrated a growing U. S.- Nigeria partnership that is delivering real wins on counterterrorism, critical minerals, and national security for both countries.

In the statement, Secretary Rubio detailed the two nations' shared values and strong partnership, saying: "[The United States places great value on this strong bilateral relationship and appreciates the substantive dialogue undertaken over the past year. As Africa's largest democracy and one of its largest economies, Nigeria plays a vital role in advancing regional stability and economic growth. The United States is proud to stand alongside Nigeria in pursuit of these common goals.](#)"

He continued: *“Our two nations are bound by a shared commitment to continued progress on our common priorities, rooted in mutual democratic principles, the protection of religious freedom, a growing commercial relationship, and a commitment to fostering peace and security.”*

Under President Trump and President Tinubu, this partnership is delivering historic progress across West Africa, and it is only getting stronger.

U. S.-Nigeria Counterterrorism Partnership Continues to Deliver Security Wins

Nowhere is that momentum more evident than in the fight against terrorism. U. S. security support and training are bolstering President Tinubu’s security surge.

In Nigeria’s North Central states, *Nigerian-led operations* killed 52 terrorists, arrested 350 suspects, and rescued 655 victims in the past week alone. Most notably, backed by UK intelligence, Nigerian security forces *eliminated* senior ISIS Commander Abdussamad Ohida and foiled a planned terrorist attack aimed at disrupting the 2027 elections.

And in September, Nigerian security forces *arrested* Mahmoud Adam, the militant Fulani leader responsible for much of the violence against Nigerian Christians in the North Central states.

Those results build on months of progress. In July and August, Nigerian security forces carried out dozens of *intelligence-led operations*, arresting 1,334 people, neutralizing 127 suspected criminals, and rescuing 383 kidnap victims.

In May, *joint U. S.–Nigeria counterterrorism operations* struck the top of ISIS’s global network, killing its No. 2 leader and more than 200 fighters.

These gains reflect the steadfast support of President Trump and the U. S. military, which has provided training, intelligence, and critical weapons to help Nigeria’s security forces confront terrorism.

President Tinubu’s Security Surge is Protecting Nigerian Christians

These counterterrorism wins have gained so much momentum that even the naysayers have been forced to admit that President Tinubu’s security efforts are working.

Writing in the *Daily Signal*, Sean Nelson of the Alliance Defending Freedom detailed the Tinubu government’s strong response to an attack by militant Fulani in the North Central State, saying:

“Last week, beginning the evening of Sept. 20, Nigerian forces surged into the Barkin Ladi area in a show of force unlike anything seen before in the Middle Belt, even using air support for the first time and establishing a local curfew. The additional forces were able to beat back the militants in most areas, and they deterred any large-scale attack from occurring. The U. S. correctly commended

Nigeria's government for stepping up, responding to early warnings, and deploying security that could meet the scale of the attacks from the jihadists."

It's hard to argue with those facts, which is why the usual suspects – Rep. Riley Moore, Rep. Greg Stuebe, Rep. Paulina Luna, Rep. Marlon Stutzman, Judd Saul, Alex Barbir, former Ambassador Tibor Nagy, former Ambassador Sam Brownback, and Nina Shea – have simply stayed [silent](#).

We're waiting patiently for their mea culpa. But we know better than to hold our breath.

A Partnership Built to Last

Sixty-six years after independence, Nigeria remains Africa's largest democracy and a vital partner in advancing regional stability and economic growth. The United States should keep strengthening its counterterrorism partnership with Nigeria—helping protect Nigerian Christians while advancing U.S. national security in a critical region.

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