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Rebecca Neville

From: SecureNigeria [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2026 9:01 AM
To: Rebecca Neville
Subject: One Year Later: Measuring Nigeria's Security Progress Under President Tinubu

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One Year Later: Measuring Nigeria's Security Progress Under President Tinubu

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One year after the U.S. designated Nigeria a Country of Particular Concern (CPC), Secure Nigeria is taking stock of the incredible progress made under President Tinubu's security surge. Far from the days of U.S. lawmakers like Senator Ted Cruz resharing baseless propaganda from paid activists and trading barbs with Nigerian officials, the U.S. and Nigeria have now forged a durable and lasting counterterrorism partnership that has made real strides in fighting terrorism and protecting Christians in Nigeria.

Last week offered a clear example: security forces in Borno State killed four ISIS commanders, including two senior foreign operatives.

That operation was no isolated success. Despite the efforts of propagandists, professional activists, and President Tinubu's political opponents, thousands of terrorists have been killed, arrested, or prosecuted. Tens of thousands of kidnapping victims have been rescued, and many families in front-line communities have returned home.

By working together, Presidents Tinubu and Trump are strengthening the security of Nigeria and the U.S. and bringing peace and prosperity to vulnerable Nigerians who suffered under the threat of terrorism for decades. As we mark the one-year anniversary of the CPC designation, Secure Nigeria is detailing the incredible efforts from President Tinubu, President Trump, and Nigerian and American security forces

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that turned a fragile diplomatic relationship into the U.S.'s strongest counterterrorism alliances in Africa.

Numbers don't lie

Perhaps the clearest and most consequential measure of President Tinubu's successful security campaign is the drastic decrease in Nigerian deaths from terrorist attacks, which has fallen a shocking 81% during President Tinubu's tenure in office. Meanwhile, more than 10,000 kidnapping victims have been rescued since 2023, including 1,736 in the third quarter of 2026 alone.

Behind these figures is a string of operations, carried out by Nigerian security forces and backed by U.S. intelligence and military cooperation. On Christmas Day 2025, President Trump launched the historic U.S.-Nigeria counterterrorism partnership through coordinated airstrikes destroying ISIS camps in Northwestern Nigeria. Then in May 2026, joint U.S.-Nigeria operations, combining special forces raids and precision airstrikes, eliminated global ISIS leader Abu-Bilal al-Minuki and over 200 ISIS fighters.

Those victories freed Nigerian forces to shift resources to the North Central states, where communities, including Nigerian Christians, have been targeted by militant Fulani groups and other criminals.

Created under President Tinubu's security surge, Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) now deter attacks and speed response times. Between July and September 2026, security forces in the North Central State carried out dozens of intelligence-led operations, killing hundreds of terrorists, arresting more than 1,600 suspects, and rescuing more than 1,000 kidnapping victims.

In September, security forces arrested Mahmoud Adam, the Fulani militant leader responsible for much of the violence against Christians in the North Central states. And in October, Nigerian forces, backed by UK intelligence, killed senior ISIS commander Abdussamad Ohida and foiled a planned attack aimed at disrupting the 2027 elections.

What really matters are the lives behind these statistics. They represent hundreds of real communities who no longer live under the threat of terrorism, and tens of thousands of Nigerians who have returned to their children, parents, spouses, and communities. Their freedom is a powerful reminder of what the U.S.-Nigeria counterterrorism partnership represents and what is at stake if the U.S. retreats from the region.

Nigeria's Judiciary is Holding Terrorists Accountable

Along with security operations, the Nigerian government has also taken significant steps to end impunity and hold terrorists accountable for their crimes. Since President Tinubu took office, the Nigerian government has arrested over 17,000 terrorism suspects and has urged Nigerian courts to swiftly deliver justice. In 2026 alone, more

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than 1,000 of those terrorism suspects were convicted, surpassing the total number of terrorism convictions recorded during the preceding nine years combined.

While military operations and air strikes eliminate terrorists and disrupt their networks, a functioning justice system helps deter potential recruits and ensure that those responsible for violence face lasting consequences.

Terrorists are giving up

Alongside military pressure and prosecutions, approximately 124,000 individuals have reportedly surrendered to the military thanks to President Tinubu's national deradicalization and reintegration program, Operation Safe Corridor.

A durable peace requires both resolve against those who continue committing violence and a credible, carefully managed path to draw potential recruits away from armed groups. President Tinubu's reintegration program is also serving the safety of communities and respecting the needs of victims.

Counterterrorism Wins Break Through the Propaganda Machine

Nigeria's counterterrorism wins have been so significant that even the naysayers and professional activists 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:

"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."

Similarly, Rep. Riley Moore—a frequent critic and peddler of "Christian Genocide" propaganda—also commended the Nigerian government for their counterterrorism success in October 2026, celebrating the arrest of Mahmoud Adam, a Fulani terrorist leader, saying, "*The Nigerian government deserves credit for making this arrest.*"

President Trump and U.S. Officials Commend Tinubu's leadership

President Trump and Secretary Rubio understand that the only way to protect Nigerian Christians is through a strong and durable U.S.-Nigeria counterterrorism partnership.

President Trump has recognized the importance of Nigeria's efforts and the leadership behind them. As he wrote in his July 6, 2026, letter to Tinubu,

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"I appreciate your decisive leadership on behalf of the Nigerian people. I applaud your resolve to tackle the issues plaguing your nation, especially the violence affecting Christian communities and it is a true honor to stand with you in the fight against terrorists and to make the Federal Republic of Nigeria stronger and more prosperous."

President Trump's letter also highlighted the ongoing U.S.-Nigeria counterterrorism security partnership and the importance of equipping Nigerian forces with training, tools, and intelligence.

The U.S. State Department has similarly highlighted Nigeria's growing counterterrorism momentum and the success of the U.S.-Nigeria counterterrorism partnership.

On September 28, the U.S. State Department publicly commended Nigerian security forces for their "*strong response to the latest attacks from Fulani Militant groups*" and pledged to continue working with the Nigerian government to protect Christians in the North Central states.

Meanwhile, on the 66th anniversary of Nigerian independence, 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."*

Secretary Rubio's statement follows a productive meeting with Nigerian National Security Advisor Nuhu Ribadu in May 2026 in addition to regular meetings of the U.S.-Nigeria Joint Working Group that is strengthening bilateral security cooperation.

The United States and Nigeria have a shared objective: confront terrorism and protect innocent lives.

Continuing the fight

Nigeria still faces a challenging road to lasting peace and protecting Christians and all Nigerians from harm. Acknowledging the work ahead, however, does not mean ignoring the enormous accomplishments of President Tinubu's tenure in office, and the successes of the past year since the CPC designation, in particular.

President Tinubu has demonstrated the resolve needed to carry this effort forward. With President Trump's support, he has an opportunity to deepen those gains and bring lasting security within reach of more Nigerian families.

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But as this incredible success demonstrates, true counterterrorism progress does not come from name-calling or propaganda, but from the hard work of continuous engagement, diplomacy, and the bravery of the men and women in U.S. and Nigerian security forces who put their lives on the line every day to protect their communities and the freedom of their countries.

As we reflect on this one-year anniversary, we honor their sacrifice and pray for their continued success in the fight against terrorism.

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