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Suggested Questions for HFAC Hearing 'Conflict and Persecution in Nigeria: The Case for a CPC Designation'

8 messages

Elias Gerasoulis <elias@moranstrategies.com>

Mon, Mar 10, 2025 at 8:00 AM

To: naomie.pierre-louis@mail.house.gov, angelle.kwemo@mail.house.gov

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Dear Ms. Pierre-Louis & Ms. Kwemo:

My firm and I represent the Biafra Republic Government In-Exile (BRGIE). To that effect, I am enclosing questions for your member's consideration to bring up to the witnesses at the upcoming HFAC hearing "Conflict and Persecution in Nigeria: The Case for a CPC Designation" (see pdf attachment), given the Congresswoman's position on the HFAC committee and Africa subcommittee. I would be delighted to arrange for the Acting Prime Minister of the Biafra Republic, Mr. Ogechukwu Nkere, to meet with your office to provide a further informational briefing.

Biafra, the southeast portion of Nigeria, is a region of 70-80 million people, who are predominantly Christians and indigenous people (mainly of the Igbo tribe). While the Biafra question had been dormant for several decades after the Biafra war of the 1960's, the Biafra independence movement has regained ground during the past two decades, due to Nigeria's persecution of Christians and indigenous people. As a response, the Biafrans have formed their own government, the Biafra Republic Government in Exile (BRGIE), and are seeking their own self-determination. The BRGIE conducted an independence referendum where 50 million Biafrans voted for independence, and made a declaration of independence on December 2nd, 2024.

The BRGIE wants to create a free, independent, and sovereign Biafra, which will be a close ally of the United States and purveyor of Western interests in the region, as well as a bulwark against Islamic extremism. This is important now more than ever, given the loss of key US military bases in places such as Niger, as well as the Nigerian government's ever-closing relations with U.S. adversaries and U.S.-designated Islamic terrorist organizations. In addition, Nigeria's persecution of Christians continues to worsen.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Elias Gerasoulis

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Suggested Questions For Consideration For March 12, 2025 HFAC Hearing
“Conflict and Persecution in Nigeria: The Case for a CPC Designation”

1. The persecution of Nigeria’s Christians and indigenous people have fueled independence sentiments amongst its people. ‘Biafra’, the Southeast portion of Nigeria, is currently in the process of re-establishing its independence, due to the persecution of its indigenous and Christian population. The Biafrans have set up their own government, the Biafra Republic Government in Exile, and conducted a self-referendum in which more than 50 million Biafrans (out of 70 or 80 million) voted for independence from Nigeria. In a highly publicized Convention in Lahti Finland (November 29, 2024, to December 03, 2024), the Biafra Government declared the ‘independence’ of Biafra. What are your thoughts on this development? Is this a possible solution to the problem of Christian persecution in Nigeria, and how should the US respond?
2. The persecution of Christians and indigenous people in Nigeria is fueling independence movements throughout Nigeria. There has been a strong Biafran independence movement in Southeast, led previously by the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and now the Biafra Republic Government in Exile (BRGIE), as well as an emerging Yoruba independence movement in Southwest Nigeria. What should be the engagement or posture of the US government with these independence movements?
3. Nigeria has engaged in global trans-national repression against critics of its persecution of Christians and indigenous people. The Nigerian government illegally kidnapped Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) Mazi Nnamdi Kanu in Kenya in 2021, which earned it condemnation from a variety of human rights organizations. More recently, Finland has detained Biafra Republic Government in Exile Prime Minister Simon Ekpa without charges for his pro-Biafran activism, under public pressure from the Nigerian government. What should the U.S. do to deter Nigeria from its engagement in transnational repression against activists who champion Nigeria’s persecuted Christian and indigenous communities?

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