

Tuesday, October 20, 2026 at 12:55:36 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Subject: Meeting Request: Senator Van Hollen and Dr. Gbenga Olawepo-Hashim, Nigerian Presidential Candidate
Date: Tuesday, October 20, 2026 at 12:10:52 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Ted Trippi
To: molly_cole@vanhollen.senate.gov, shervin_ghaffari@vanhollen.senate.gov,
sophia_hinds@vanhollen.senate.gov
CC: Garcia Mavinga Sozinho
Attachments: Dr. Hashim Background 2026-10-07.pdf

Dear Molly, Shervin, and Sophia,

I hope you are well. I'm writing on behalf of our client, Dr. Joel Gbenga Olawepo-Hashim, the Accord Party's presidential candidate in Nigeria's general election scheduled for January 2027, to request an in-person meeting with Senator Van Hollen in the coming weeks.

As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy and the Appropriations Committee, Senator Van Hollen has been a consistent advocate for sustained U.S. diplomatic and development engagement in Africa. Maryland is also home to one of the largest Nigerian-American communities in the country, many of whom are following Nigeria's upcoming election closely. Dr. Hashim would value the opportunity to share his views on Nigeria's democratic future, its humanitarian and security challenges, and how a strong U.S.–Nigeria partnership can help address both.

In the meeting, Dr. Hashim would be glad to cover current developments in Nigeria and his vision for the country, including:

- Democratic governance, the rule of law, and the outlook for credible elections in January 2027
- The safe return of displaced populations and the restoration of farming communities affected by violence
- Nigeria's security situation, including counterterrorism and cooperation across the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin
- His vision for a renewed U.S.–Nigeria strategic partnership, including trade, investment, and energy cooperation

Dr. Hashim brings a perspective that bridges Nigeria's religious and regional divides. He is an ordained Christian minister born to a Muslim father from the north and a Christian mother from the south. He is also a veteran pro-democracy advocate who was detained under military rule and named an Amnesty International Prisoner of Conscience in 1989, and he served as the first Deputy National Publicity Secretary of the People's Democratic Party during Nigeria's return to civilian rule. Today he is Chairman and CEO of Oilworld Limited, with interests across the energy sector. I have attached a short background profile for your reference.

Dr. Hashim will be in Washington in November, and we would be grateful for 30 minutes with the Senator during that window. We are glad to work around the Senator's schedule.

Thank you for considering this request. Please let me know what times might work, and I'm happy to provide any additional information.

Best regards,

Ted

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DR. JOEL GBENGA OLAWIPO-HASHIM

Background Profile & Stated Policy Positions

Nigerian Political Leader | Pro-Democracy Advocate | Christian Minister | Energy Executive

October 2026

PROFILE

Dr. Joel Gbenga Olawipo-Hashim is a Nigerian political leader, veteran pro-democracy advocate, ordained Christian minister and energy executive with more than three decades of experience spanning human-rights advocacy, grassroots political organization, public policy and international business.

His civic leadership began during Nigeria's military era. As a student leader in the National Association of Nigerian Students, he became a prominent advocate for the restoration of democratic rule. His activism led to detention under the military government of General Ibrahim Babangida and his designation as an Amnesty International Prisoner of Conscience in 1989

During Nigeria's 1998–99 transition from military rule to civilian government, he served as the first Deputy National Publicity Secretary of the People's Democratic Party, which went on to win the 1999 presidential election and form the government at the restoration of civilian rule. He later left the party in protest over corruption and internal democratic practices. Dr. Hashim is currently the Accord Party's presidential candidate for Nigeria's 2027 general election.

Dr. Hashim's national outlook is shaped by a distinctive personal bridge across Nigeria's religious and regional divides. He is a Christian and minister of the gospel, born to a Muslim father from northern Nigeria and a Christian mother from southern Nigeria, and describes himself as having been raised across the languages, faiths and communities of both. That experience informs his emphasis on freedom of conscience, equal citizenship, protection of places of worship, interfaith cohesion and national reconciliation.

In the private sector, Dr. Hashim serves as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Oilworld Limited and presides over Bresson A.S. Limited and Transnational Energy Corporation, with interests across energy, oil services and related sectors.

He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communication from the University of Lagos and a Master's Degree in Global Affairs from the University of Buckingham, where he received the Lord Max Beloff Prize for the highest overall academic performance in his cohort. In 2024, he was awarded a Doctorate of Divinity by Vine University of America.



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STATED POLICY POSITIONS

Religious Freedom, Equal Citizenship and National Cohesion

Dr. Hashim's stated approach is to protect communities and places of worship regardless of faith, uphold freedom of conscience and belief, ensure equal protection of the law, and end impunity for those who kill, displace or intimidate civilians in the name of religion or ethnicity. He argues that lasting cohesion requires severing the link between religious identity and the state's distribution of security, patronage and opportunity, and places national reconciliation at the center of democratic renewal.

Security, Terrorism and Protection of Vulnerable Communities

Dr. Hashim identifies the protection of citizens and territory as a first obligation of the Nigerian state. His security agenda calls for an intelligence-led architecture capable of anticipating threats, stronger community-based information networks, improved cross-border cooperation across West Africa, the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin, and sustained action against the financing and logistics of insurgents, bandits and criminal syndicates. He links improved security to the return of displaced populations, restoration of agricultural communities and protection of vulnerable religious and civilian populations.

Democratic Governance and Rule of Law

Drawing on his own pro-democracy record, Dr. Hashim advocates stronger independent institutions, judicial independence, protection of civic space, credible elections, public accountability and an end to impunity. He views democratic renewal in Nigeria as inseparable from wider West African stability amid unconstitutional changes of government and democratic backsliding.

U.S.–Nigeria Strategic Partnership

Dr. Hashim supports a renewed U.S.–Nigeria partnership grounded in democratic values, religious freedom and pluralism, regional security and economic cooperation. His wider policy vision includes cooperation on countering violent extremism, Gulf of Guinea and Atlantic maritime security, energy and industrial development, critical resources, trade and investment, and strengthening Nigeria's role as a stabilizing democratic anchor in West Africa.

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Prepared by Moran Global Strategies.

This material is distributed by Moran Global Strategies, Inc. on behalf of Gbenga Olawepo-Hashim. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.