



**PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE**  
Federal Republic of Nigeria

25<sup>th</sup> November, 2025

**The Honorable Christopher H. Smith**  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Africa  
Committee on Foreign Affairs  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

*Dear Honourable,*

As the President of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, I appreciate your engagement on matters of peace, security, and religious freedom, and welcome continued dialogue in support of shared regional objectives. To ensure that Nigeria's perspective is accurately reflected in the deliberations, I respectfully transmit the attached Statement for inclusion in the official Record of the Subcommittee's Hearing on ***"President Trump's Redesignation of Nigeria as a 'Country of Particular Concern—CPC': A Serious, Well-Founded Wake-Up Call"***, which was held on Thursday, November 20, 2025.

Nigeria is a sovereign and multi-religious nation of more than 200 million people, with constitutional guarantees protecting freedom of religion, equal protection under the law, and the right to worship. While extremist and criminal actors have perpetrated violence affecting Christian, Muslim, and minority-faith communities, the Government remains firmly committed to the safety of all citizens. The attached statement outlines legal protections, security operations, and ongoing reforms that reflect this commitment.

On Monday, November 17, 2025, following attacks on Christian worshippers in Kwara State and the abduction of school children in Kebbi State, the Government swiftly initiated a coordinated federal response by deploying additional security personnel, dispatching senior officials to the affected communities, and directing law-enforcement agencies to pursue the perpetrators and secure the safe return of abductees. The incidents had led President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, to cancel his engagement at the G20 Summit in South Africa. These efforts reflect a standing national policy that treats attacks on religious communities as national security threats requiring immediate intervention at the highest levels of government.

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I wish to inform you that through the government's swift actions and recovery efforts, 38 Christian worshippers from Kwara State and 51 students from Niger State were released on Sunday, November 23, 2025. However, strenuous efforts are ongoing to release the remainder of the kidnapped persons.

These documented actions demonstrate that Nigeria responds decisively when threats arise. Narratives suggesting indifference towards the safety of Christian communities do not align with the facts and risks obscuring mutual priorities in combating extremist networks that target civilians of all faiths.

Nigeria values its longstanding partnership with the United States, particularly in counterterrorism cooperation, regional stabilization, and interfaith peacebuilding initiatives. Continued engagement between both governments will be essential to addressing the complex drivers of insecurity and deepening bilateral collaboration.

To this end, I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues directly with you. Should your schedule permit, I would be pleased to meet with you in Washington. In addition, Nigeria would be honored to host you in Abuja at a mutually convenient date, to continue these discussions and engage stakeholders from across the government, civil society organisations and religious communities. Such a visit would further strengthen diplomatic cooperation and provide firsthand insight into ongoing security and interfaith initiatives.

We respectfully request that the attached Statement be entered into the official Record of the Hearing. Please do not hesitate to advise if additional briefing materials or follow-up consultations would assist the Subcommittee's work.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

**Respectfully,**

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "Godswill Obot Akpabio".

**Senator Godswill Obot Akpabio, GCON**  
President of the Senate/ Chairman of the National Assembly  
Federal Republic of Nigeria

