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**From:** Elias Gerasoulis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 19, 2026 12:27 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Meeting Request--Biafra Republic Government in-Exile (Persecuted Christians Southeast Nigeria)

Dear Ms. Higgins:

I am outreaching to you to relay a meeting request for the Prime Minister of the Biafra Republic Government in Exile (BRGIE) Ogechukwu Nkere, whom I represent, to meet with at a time of your convenience. Hon. Nkere has been active in highlighting the ongoing Christian genocide in Nigeria in the U.S. Congress, an issue which has been taken up by President Trump and the White House. Hon. Nkere has met with senior members of both Republican leadership and members of Congress, including on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and senior White House officials. The Biafra cause has increasing support in Washington, DC, and as such would also be interested in engaging your office, given Senator Lankford's support for persecuted Christians in Nigeria and strong record on international religious freedom.

I recall when I had spoken to the Senator on a prior occasion, he had mentioned that you handled foreign policy issues and would be an appropriate person of contact.

In way of background, 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 to both Islamic terrorism and an increasingly radical Islamist government in Nigeria, the Biafrans have formed their own government, the Biafra Republic Government in Exile (BRGIE), and are seeking their own self-determination with the goal of an independent Christian state or Christian autonomous region. The Biafrans are willing to offer significant concessions to the United States, including in oil and gas access, defense, and security cooperation, in exchange for U.S. political support.

Here is the BRGIE website: <https://www.biafrarepublicgovernment.org/>

I am at your disposal.

Sincerely,

Elias Gerasoulis  
Washington & Madison, LLC

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Honorable Ogechukwu Nkere  
Prime Minister  
Biafra Republic Government in Exile (BRGIE)

Mr. Nkere is a prominent Biafran-American political and human rights activist, and had previously been a longtime successful businessperson in the State of Maryland. Hon. Nkere had been elected as the Prime Minister to the Biafra Republic Government in Exile in December of 2024.

The Biafra Republic Government in Exile (BRGIE) is the political arm of the Biafra independence movement. The Igbos, along with related tribes, whom we refer to as Biafrans inhabit the Southeastern part of Nigeria with a combined population of over 70 million. Biafran Christians, along with other Nigerian Christians, are the victims of Christian genocide in Nigeria. The BRGIE's affiliated defense arm, the Biafran Defense Forces, maintains 50,000-100,000 troops and have established direct control over parts of some of South-east Nigeria (liberated Biafran territory). The BDF is actively fighting radical Islamic terrorists and seeks to support US counter-terrorism efforts in Nigeria.

The Biafra Republic Government in Exile (BRGIE), as a response to Christian genocide in Nigeria, is seeking self-determination for Biafra. The BRGIE conducted an independence referendum where 50 million Biafrans voted for independence, and made a declaration of independence on December 2nd, 2024. The Biafrans believe that the solution to the plight of Nigerian Christians is for the Christians of the country to have their own independent homeland, and that the U.S. should support an independence model similar to the South Sudanese model, when the U.S. government supported the Christian South Sudanese to obtain their independence from Sudan in 2011. In exchange for political support, BRGIE offers the United States permanent military bases in the Gulf of Guinea, counter-terrorism cooperation, and preferential oil and gas deals and concessions, among many other benefits.

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