

The Honorable  
Anthony Blinken  
Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520



November 17, 2021

Dear Mister Secretary,

Africa's largest democracy is a failing, if not a failed state. The Nigerian state under the presidency of Muhammadu Buhari is unable or unwilling to fulfil its most basic responsibility – the provision of security for its citizens against violence. This grim reality produces grave consequences not only for the human rights of Nigerian citizens, but also for the security of the whole of sub-Saharan Africa. Today, we witness the spread of violent jihadist movements throughout the Sahel region, in much of West Africa and even in Congo and Mozambique.

In a timely and perceptive article published on CSI's [Nigeria Report](#) website, the historian Prof. Rudolph Ogoo Okonkwo reminded us again of the genocidal proceedings in Biafra and warned that in Nigeria "the scene is set for a major incident to trigger a flash flood of genocide". Indeed, already in January 2020, CSI issued a [genocide warning](#), calling on "the Permanent Members of the UN Security Council to take appropriate action to prevent genocide in Africa's largest country". Supporting evidence has been documented in the 2020 report [Nigeria: Unfolding Genocide?](#), published by the UK All-Party Group for International Religious Freedom or Belief.

Much of the mass violence in Nigeria is perpetrated by non-state actors, such as Boko Haram, its various spin offs, and Fulani tribal militia all of which specially target Christians. In December 2020, Fatou Bensouda, the outgoing prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), published a chilling [statement](#) highlighting the heinous mass atrocity crimes committed by such non-state actors. But the ICC prosecutor also had reasonable grounds to believe that atrocity crimes had been committed by organs of the Nigerian state, among them:

*"Crimes against humanity and war crimes: murder, rape, torture, and cruel treatment; enforced disappearance; forcible transfer of population; outrages upon personal dignity; intentionally directing attacks against the civilian population as such and against individual civilians not taking direct part in hostilities; unlawful imprisonment; conscripting and enlisting children under the age of fifteen years into armed forces and using them to participate actively in hostilities; persecution on gender and political grounds; and other inhumane acts."*

We urge you to take the opportunity while in Nigeria to meet not only with

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government officials and wealthy entrepreneurs, but also with victims of atrocity crimes and other grave human rights abuses committed by both non-state and state actors. Priority should be placed on meeting the human rights activist and journalist Luka Binniyat, who was detained by security officers just days before your arrival in Nigeria after having drawn attention to the cover up by officialdom of atrocity crimes against indigenous Christians in Southern Kaduna.

CSI furthermore renews its appeal to the United States and the other Permanent Members of the UN Security Council to fulfil their legal obligations to prevent genocide in Nigeria and to protect potential victims from the violence of non-state and state actors.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Eibner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Dr. John Eibner  
President  
Christian Solidarity International (CSI)