

TRANSCRIPT

A JOINT WEBINAR

Nigeria Update: Episode 2

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

<https://savethepersecutedchristians.org/nigeria-update-episode-2-april-29-2026/>

Media File: Nigeria_Update_April_29.mp4

BEGIN TRANSCRIPT:

[00:00:00] **Dede Laugesen:** Hello, everyone. Welcome to Save the Persecuted Christians and Save Nigeria Group's Nigeria Update. This is the second episode. We had one on April 15th — a really good episode. Please go watch it at our website, SaveThePersecutedChristians.org. This webinar will also be available by video at the same link where the registration was on our website, so you can see it there.

We're so happy that you are here today with us to keep an eye on Nigeria and what is happening there with regard to the genocide of Christians. We know that the government of Nigeria is doing all it can to keep hidden [00:01:00] from the world the violence and daily massacres and kidnappings of entire communities of Christians that are taking place in Nigeria.

I'm Dede Laugesen, president and CEO of Save the Persecuted Christians, and I'm working very closely with Stephen Osemwegie with the Save Nigeria Group. He has stood up the Save Nigeria Civil Society Coalition, and I'm happy to say that we are a part of that coalition, as are all of the guests who are on today.

We're going to go over to Mike Arnold to start. Mike was just in Washington, D.C., last week for a briefing on Capitol Hill, and his remarks in a video that posted after that event captured well over a million views in 24 hours. So Mike is one of our leading experts on the situation on the ground in [00:02:00] Nigeria. And even last October, he helped really blow the lid off, shocked the Nigerian officials who had invited him to carry the water for them and convince the international community that nothing is happening there. But he stood in front of Nigerian media and instead said, yes, there is a genocide.

So Mike, it's good to have you here. You've been doing all kinds of exposure of the corruption and complicity of the Nigerian officials. Tell us a little bit about your remarks from Capitol Hill last week, and also we had the opportunity to work together on exposing some of the ambassadors that Nigeria is sending out into the world. So I hope you'll talk a little bit about that as well. Mike, over to you.

[00:02:56] **Mike Arnold:** Well, thank you so much, and thank you for putting on this forum. It's [00:03:00] a great opportunity for the truth to get out.

One of the lines from my briefing last week that went viral is when I said, "Working with the Nigerian government to end the genocide is like working with the Third Reich to end the Holocaust." And that's echoed. I want to right now take the opportunity to back that up so people don't think it's just rhetoric, because it's really not rhetoric. And to understand that, there are really two key points to understand first that provide the context.

First, most Americans don't know, most people in the world can't even find Nigeria on a map. Nigeria is the sixth-largest nation on Earth, on track to be the third largest by 2050. So it's huge. It also is one of the top five members of OPEC. That means it's one of the top five oil-producing and exporting nations on Earth, and it's a high-grade crude, so it's very valuable. It has been since the fifties. [00:04:00] And it has, they say, as much as a trillion dollars — a thousand billion dollars — of minerals. And it's the future minerals, the kind that go in electric cars and mobile phones. So it's this giant, I call it a cookie jar, that, as Africa has been for centuries, has just been looted continually by outsiders with complicity by corrupt insiders. That's the history of Africa in general.

Now, the other point that's important to understanding Nigeria is its history. Nigeria was founded upon, ultimately — I'll do shorthand here — a 200-year-old caliphate. The Sokoto Caliphate was founded in 1804, at its peak the largest pre-colonial empire in Africa. The British who came to colonize did not undo it. They actually just co-opted it and left it in place. They rebranded it. [00:05:00] But by all Islamic perspectives, it is still a caliphate. It is still there. The 20th-generation blood heir to the founder is still on the throne. They never undid that. The caliphate was founded by jihad, and it has waged jihad ever since.

Looking at it historically — Nigeria didn't teach history in their schools for the last 15 years for a reason, because its history is damning. The fact is, if you look at the body count of that caliphate in this Nigerian context since its founding, there are more than 6 million that have been killed, more than 10 million enslaved, and more than 25 million displaced over time. That truly does rise to the level of the Nazi Holocaust. So comparing the two is not a stretch.

Now, this government is 100 percent built on the power base of that that's still in [00:06:00] effect. They can do ultimately nothing without the caliphate. Part of it is constitutional. Their constitution in 1999 was inflicted by a northern Islamic military dictator who said, "Okay, folks, here's your constitution," when they supposedly made it a democracy. But that constitution mentions Sharia and Islamic terms 165 times. It does not mention Christianity at all. Their presidential compound was built with two mosques and no chapel. It's an Islamic regime, and it's extremely corrupt.

The current president, Bola Tinubu, helped get the prior president — the bloodiest in modern times — elected, and claims to have pretty much run that administration. So you can't separate Tinubu from the whole onslaught of Boko Haram and everything that happened. He is the engineer of that government that enabled and allowed that to happen. There's [00:07:00] so many examples of impunity and corruption that it's hard to even go into it all in a short period of time.

But they continually turn a blind eye to the massacres of Christians and peaceful Muslims who won't join the jihad — massacres over and over again in the north. They spend millions and millions of dollars to try to hide it from the outside world. I liken it to a reverse Wakanda, the Marvel comic construct that people are familiar with that is a very advanced civilization that shields itself with an image of poverty. Nigeria's the exact opposite. It is a bloody, corrupt, brutal, genocidal caliphate system that projects this veil of secular democracy. But that veil is wearing thin.

And you mentioned Tinubu's administration's current slate of ambassadors. I know as a fact on the inside that at least one of them — the one I know personally, and I suspect pretty [00:08:00] much all of them — was an outspoken opponent of this administration, calling out the Christian genocide, was offered an ambassadorship and whatever else went along with that, and immediately flipped his tune. And now he's the ambassador assigned to Mexico, which is interesting because it's a cartel center, but we won't get into that here. There are numerous ambassadors that you see now that are all very shady characters, a lot of them with criminal backgrounds, a lot of them with radical backgrounds, who are now being sent out around the world to represent this country. It's shameful, and that alone should raise alarms about what's really going on in Nigeria.

[00:08:46] **Dede Laugesen:** Great. Thank you, Mike. It's just amazing that Nigeria — the officials there — are able to carry this false mask into the world, and yet they continue to be [00:09:00] welcomed in. The leaders get welcomed into Western countries, into England, and into the United States even, and elevated on these — given these platforms. But the people, the people who are crying out, the people on the ground who are dying, who are suffering under this economic rape that is happening across the land to the people, and the 10 to 12 million internally displaced people — all of this screams that there is a big issue in Nigeria, and yet they consistently say that more Muslims are killed than Christians, that Christians are not targeted, that this is not religious in nature, even though it is jihad, which is religious to the core and definitely at this stage of the jihad in Nigeria is targeting [00:10:00] the Christian communities to the south of the northern states that have adopted Sharia.

We're happy to have with us today Reverend Peter Ladi Thompson. Peter Ladi Thompson is a friend of mine. He's the former deputy secretary from the African Union. He is a security expert, and at the African Union he served as deputy secretary for

peace and security. His team has been at the forefront of terrorism in Nigeria since the nineties, and he is a special adviser for conflict resolution in matters related to terrorism for the Christian Association of Nigeria.

Reverend Thompson, it's so good to have you here. Please tell us what your view is of what's happening in Nigeria. I know that you believe it's bigger than just the religious freedom issue, and it's stretching all across the Sahel, all the way from [00:11:00] West Africa to East Africa now. We just saw that. So Reverend Thompson, tell us what your perspective is on what's happening in Nigeria, and give us a little insight into the public officials that Mike has been talking about, and others that you see as really at the core of what's happening here in Nigeria.

[00:11:23] **Rev. Peter Ladi Thompson:** Thank you very much, my beloved sister Dede. Let me first of all start with gratitude. We've spoken a few times, and I've said souls like yours — my nation owes you a whole lot. You've been there for us. As a matter of fact, you remind me of Baroness Cox in Britain also, who has gone the extra mile to help us over the past two to three decades over this challenge that we have. And in the same breath, [00:12:00] I must also thank people like Faith McDonnell. She was the one who introduced me to Baroness Cox. I think that was before 9/11, and so much has happened since. I keep saying to every Nigerian that we owe you guys a whole lot. You are great hearts. The Lord will never forget you. Your children's children will call you blessed for what you've done on our behalf.

And in the same breath, I remember people like Frank Wolf too, because I met him way back. People like Chris Smith, Riley Moore — there's a Nigerian in particular, Stephen Enada. We also need to thank people like Ted Cruz, Tony Perkins, and I remember recently Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom Sam Brownback.

Now, let's get this quickly, because we are Christians and we're talking about the persecuted church. We have to be very careful to remember that as Christians, Jesus Christ expects us to respond and not react. [00:13:00] And I say this with all gravity, because God has opened the door for us in America, and the heart of a king is in the hand of the Lord. He turns it like waters. I must tell you that a whole lot of people have been working through the decades on this challenge, but it's only in recent times that God raised Donald Trump. And actually it started with those two tweets. And I want to say to you that the progress that has been made since then — it cannot be — it's invaluable.

So let's situate this properly so that we can be sure that success will be what we have. What are we really dealing with? Because if we don't diagnose a problem properly, you cannot write a prescription for it.

Let me mention that I started work at this in 1999. I started with a series of visions. Really interestingly, we are dealing with Christianity here, [00:14:00] but beyond religion, I took a tour around. We started up what we call the Macedonian Initiative. It's still alive and well. And we told the northern states to set up early warning systems, told them to expect a lot more, and then began to talk to Nigeria. If you look at national television in Nigeria, I probably have interviews going back like 15 years saying the same thing, telling them to expect suicide bombings and stuff like that in the days when there was nothing in sight. But I watched it swell from trickles of blood. I knew when they began to import people to teach how to make bombs in northern Nigeria. So I watched this thing expand and explode into the torrents of crimson that we are seeing.

However, we'll not do ourselves justice if we don't realize that what we're dealing with in Nigeria is actually a global situation. What does that mean? We're dealing with a global problem [00:15:00] with a local face. And if Nigeria goes, West Africa is gone. If West Africa goes, you can kiss Africa goodbye. And that's a nightmare that the world cannot afford.

What am I talking about? The global resurgence of Islamism has been documented across the world. It is not something that is new, so I'm not gonna talk about that much. But all I'm just going to point out is that one of the key persons who was involved in this template that we're dealing with — what we're dealing with is a hydra. It's extremely intelligent. It is something that was very well thought out. And I'm just gonna say one or two things for us to realize that between the years 1991 and 1996, Osama bin Laden was actually in Sudan. While he was in Sudan, he drew up the template for what's going on in Nigeria, not just Nigeria.

And if you go and read the 9/11 [00:16:00] Report, the official report of 9/11, you'll find that this is also documented there. I'm saying this to us because what he designed — I'm just gonna quickly mention this to us so that we can sort of upgrade our thinking. The sophistication of what we're dealing with here is a global hydra. It has a head. It collapses nations from within. What we see at work in Nigeria was well thought out. Nigerians actually went to visit Osama bin Laden in Sudan at that time. So a lot of what you see that is rolling out in Nigeria from the 1990s — we saw a shift.

In Africa we'll tell you that when the dance, the tempo of the music changes, your dance steps have to change. So one of the things that, first of all, I think we need to do is that we need an upgrade, first of all, to realize that what we're dealing with in Nigeria is not a local challenge. Actually, [00:17:00] it goes way beyond the Usman dan Fodio threat. Why am I saying this? Osama bin Laden, when he designed the template for what's going on in Nigeria, used to feel insulted when people compared what he was doing, his handiwork, to Hamas or even Hezbollah. He used to say that those things were

primitive. And I'm saying this to us because it is opportunistic, and we noticed that shift in sophistication.

Let me say clearly to everybody, hear me loud and clear, America: because I hear a lot of times people are emphasizing the Fulani, the Kanuri-led Boko Haram. The truth is this: the real dangerous lot in Nigeria is ISWAP. It's the intelligence here. We watched them export these young people, train them, and put them back. It was Osama bin Laden who designed that cell system that you're seeing at work. As a matter of fact, in recent times, there was a fellow who [00:18:00] left Afghanistan a short while ago, went over into Sudan, and is in Nigeria now. I think he went to replace the head of ISWAP there. So you will notice there's going to be — there's been — a shift in tempo, and we need to be very purposeful. We need to be intentional. We need to be very measured to respond to this hydra if we are going to get it, to beat it.

Now, what are we dealing with in Nigeria in its own case? Because this hydra is opportunistic. It studies your history, and that's why what Mike said comes into play. It has studied Nigeria's history. And actually, frankly speaking, I'm going to tell you something: the Fulani are an anachronism. They're not really dangerous on their own. I was in Gigoma, I think, in southern Kaduna. I'm talking about the Fulani village there. And I remember engaging the district head and some of the elders in the community. And what we discovered was that it was the [00:19:00] younger ones that are being enticed by the recruiters who are doing the radicalization.

Now, I'm saying this because we need to understand that Nigeria itself is a deterministic chaos construct. We've been battling with this all along. It was designed by our colonial lords to keep failing without falling. We're a case study in chaotic complexity, really and truly. And that's not merely because of Nigeria's size and diversity. But what Mike is capturing there is — let me put it in a different way. The Nigerian state operates as a multi-layered ecosystem of patronage, ethnicity, religion, and raw power. It's a mix of weaponized poverty, low value to human worth, and five existential threats. Now, the most potent of all those threats is this global problem, which is the global resurgence of Islamism.

Let me quickly situate that even better for us so that as we plan and we move forward from here, we must move with more precision. Our response from the church — because we need the church in America to impact the American nation in its policymaking. [00:20:00] Now remember that on the global level, if you read Francis Fukuyama's book *The End of History and the Last Man*, published 1992, Samuel Huntington's popular thesis *The Clash of Civilizations*, 1996, Robert Kaplan's *The Coming Anarchy* — in fact, in his own book he mentioned Nigeria, and a lot of what he was talking about there, he mentioned already. His book was written in 1994. Now Kissinger wrote *World Order* in 2014, and all of them agree that the post-Cold War era

has come, and a lot of the loud bangs, the proxy [00:21:00] wars, the noises you are hearing across the world are the death throes of an old global order. There's a new global order coming in. And because it's coming in, that's why we're seeing that the Russian bear, the Chinese dragon, the sword of Islamism — which is the newcomer on the block — what we used to call the Western traditional mission states, Europe, all of them are vying to control the template of the new world order.

Now, this is where Nigeria comes in, because none of them saw Donald Trump coming prior to this time. U.S. policy generally aligned with the West, the traditional mission, and if you read Kissinger's book you'll see a lot of allusions to that. But here comes Donald Trump, and what the Bible tells us is that the king's heart is in His hand. He directs it whichever way He wants. So we need to agree with ourselves — let's Proverbs 21 — [00:22:00] that what God has done for us here is peculiar. God has raised a Cyrus to do His will, and on behalf of widows.

The American public till now does not realize the kind of rescue that Donald Trump has affected in giving us hope at all. But as I speak right now, let me tell you the truth: there's been a response. And I'm just gonna show a little video and stop here so that maybe in the question-and-answer we can get into details, because I tend to — I mean, I've worked in this field for so many years. I've seen the tears, the pain, and I realize that we have to be measured. We have to be very careful about how we approach this, because there's only a window of time opening that we have right now that President Trump is there. We need to do a whole lot of work.

There's a war of narratives. You see, we're dealing with asymmetrical warfare, hybrid threats, and we're dealing with an enemy that uses the media as [00:23:00] a force multiplier. So let me round up by saying one or two things here: that we are fortunate that right now the U.S. National Security Strategy for 2025, you know, labels Trump as the president of peace. It highlights the use of unconventional diplomacy. That's what we're enjoying right now — to prioritize the realignment through peace and proactive peacemaking. So America right now is a peace-builder nation, and that's the policy for this presidency.

Now, if this presidency goes, we in Nigeria know we cannot guarantee what is coming after. And of course, we are praying that there will be a continuation of what has been started. But we are losing the war of narratives right now in the long run. And the reason why I say so is that even if you go to Nigeria right now, the president of Nigeria has poured a lot of money into Washington, and we need to keep our [00:24:00] eyes on policymaking. Like I said, let me just give one clue of one definite thing we should be focusing on right now if we really want to win.

Look, I've seen the bloodshed. I've been there with widows, parents — “See what they did to my son, slashed to pieces” — and I've been with Christians who had households

of like 30, 35, 26 slaughtered. But the people are still saying, “Pastor Ladi, we are believers. We forgive them. They don’t know what they’re doing,” and all that.

So I’m saying to us that we must respond. We must not react. When we react, it’s instinctive. But when we respond, we respond based on scripture. We respond based on the Prince of Peace, who paid the price of peace. So the last thing I just want to drop is this: the major thing that America can do for us right now is to put pressure on the Nigerian leadership to define the enemy. We have found out something: that we are violating foundational principles. [00:25:00] Look, the COIN field manual — the counterinsurgency field manual — one of the experts, David Ucko, if you look at the field manual, he says something there. He says that an imprecisely defined enemy produces diffused efforts, eroded morale, compromised intelligence and targeting, and it also makes room for preventable casualties. And Nigeria cannot decisively defeat an enemy that it has not decisively defined.

So all I’m saying is that we need to keep our eyes on the ball, work together, especially in the area of policy. And when it comes to the war of narratives, I realize that in America there’s a whole lot of work to be done because the average citizen doesn’t know the great work that America is doing for us in Nigeria.

[00:25:51] **Dede Laugesen:** Thank you so much. You’re spot on about that, that this is a global problem and that most of the world is not recognizing that [00:26:00] Islam is at war with the West, and it is winning right now.

Stephen Osemwegie is my friend from the Save Nigeria Group. I explained at the top of the show that he has stood up the Save Nigeria Civil Society Coalition, which is all of the groups that you see here and many, many others who have linked arms to stand in solidarity with Nigerian Christians, whether we’re here in America or in Nigeria.

Stephen, it’s so good to have you here. Kind of bring it all together for us and help Americans understand: why does this matter to America right now? Why — we’ve got a war with Iran going on, the Middle East is falling apart, the south of the border is just crazy-making, and cabals everywhere — Stephen, help Americans understand why Nigeria matters to [00:27:00] us.

[00:27:00] **Stephen Osemwegie:** Thank you very much, and I’m very glad to be back on the second edition of this program where we center the situation in Nigeria. I’m very delighted with the guests we have this week on this edition.

Speaking of bringing it all together, the real truth is highlighting what Mike Arnold had spoken about, and even his book, which I recommend you guys should purchase. There’s a book he called *The Epicenter*. He talks about global Islam and Nigeria being its center. So some of the podcasts that Mike Arnold has had to do — there’s something he mentioned, and it’s very true. Why does it matter to Americans? When ISIS was

displaced in Syria as a caliphate, America reacted. When we saw Syria rampaging across the Middle East, Syria and the U.S. dislodged them. They moved to Nigeria [00:28:00] and West Africa. ISIS did not die. ISIS is now what they call ISWAP in Borno and everywhere. You also have Mali, where you have JNIM.

As a matter of fact, why Americans should worry about what is happening — there's just a few days ago, these groups were traveling to take over the entire country of Mali. They have seized the capital called Bamako. And this is a country that, if it falls, is just north of Nigeria. And many of these terror groups do cross-border attacks.

Why is this relevant to the American public? Terrorists have a hatred for Western civilization. As a matter of fact, a terror group in Nigeria named Boko Haram literally means Western education is evil. Nigeria is just a cannon fodder for them. Their target is America. Their target is Europe. Their target is religious liberty, freedom of worship. And their goal is very explicit. They want to create a caliphate, [00:29:00] first starting with Nigeria and the subregion in West Africa, and then the whole of Africa. And it is scary to see that the world is not watching what is happening.

Many people think, oh, this is an issue that does not concern me. Well, we know that 9/11 was not planned in New York. We saw the result at the Twin Towers. What we can do as Americans living in the United States today is to make sure that we have our eyes on where terrorists are gathering. In America, companies spring up in Silicon Valley every hour — there's a new startup. In Nigeria, terrorist groups spring up every day with a new name. They have branches. They work together. It is a terror-infested region that local government, even though they say they're fighting, is not able to stop the tide.

And there is something that I call the genocide in Nigeria, which rages on, has now moved, forced into a global threat, threatening the [00:30:00] safety of the United States, because these terrorists hate Western education, hate Western societies. Their goal is to have a base to operate, and that is why we are here. Whilst we may be concerned about Christians who are being massacred, massacred, about villages that have been taken over by these jihadists who say that they want to create a caliphate, why you should concern yourself about it is the fact that this can become a threat, if not stopped or nipped in the bud. It is easier to stop the menace in Nigeria than to stop them in New York.

So that is why you should be concerned about what is happening in Nigeria. That is why standing with us, speaking against what is happening, and putting pressure on your congressmembers — particularly because there are bills before Congress that we want you also to add your voice on. For example, in January, two congressmembers, Riley Moore from West Virginia and Chairman Smith of New Jersey, [00:31:00] put forth a bill for Congress and they call it the Nigerian Religious Freedom and Accountability Act of

2026. It's called Bill 5476 or something like that. I want you right now to call your congressmembers if you're watching this video and ask them to co-sign that bill.

What is that bill? The bill calls for sanctioning the sponsors of Boko Haram, ISIS, and other groups, particularly the militia that is committing the most genocide. Why is this important? Because the sponsors are not local. There are very credible allegations that countries in the Middle East who are U.S. allies are part of the sponsors. You see what happened with the RSF in Sudan with the civil war. Well, there are countries that have been linked to that war, similar to Nigeria. When this bill passes, the U.S., which is a very big stick, can crack down on the weapons supply. What do they use? They use small arms. They use [00:32:00] RPGs. They even now use drones, and they do what we call coordinated attacks, something that is clearly well organized. For example, the attack of Bokkos. It is multi-pronged. It is not a ragtag group that you can dismiss.

The situation in the Sahel, the situation in the Lake Chad Basin, is a global emergency. I'm aware that the Strait of Hormuz and the war in Iran are priority number one because of oil. Well, this same hot-head, monster — the same monster that is rearing its head in Iran and committing a lot of crimes against the people of Iran — they're right there in Nigeria. And to shock you, we have Nigerians who support the mullahs of Iran. They burn the U.S. flags, they burn the Israeli flag. There are people and groups that are calling for U.S. help to end the genocide of Christians and other groups. They want to become a caliphate under ISIS. There are people, some of them, who hate what is happening. So it's important for Americans to [00:33:00] get involved.

Try to ask ways you can connect with organizations like Save the Persecuted Christians, Save Nigeria Group, which is based here in the United States. And there's an opportunity for you to stand with us on June 20th. What is happening on June 20th? On Saturday, June 20th, Nigerians in America across different cities and states are coming to Washington, D.C., just outside the White House at Lafayette Park. We want to gather to pray. We want to gather to sing songs and hear testimonies from people who are at the front lines of this genocide. We want you ladies and gentlemen, as Americans who may not be able to be in Nigeria, to come to Washington, D.C., on June 20 at Saturday, 10:00 a.m. I want you to make a date on your calendar to be in D.C. to stand with the persecuted Christians and also those facing human rights violations who are not Christians.

Our fight is not for everyone to be a Christian by force. That's the job of the terrorists. We believe in religious [00:34:00] freedom. We believe in the right of persuasion. As a Christian, I believe the Holy Spirit convinces people. You cannot go about with AK-47s, mow down communities, asking them to convert to your version of Islam or die. We want to call on moderate Muslims who condemn the terrorism to stand with us. This is not about any personal agenda.

So on June 20th, this is an opportunity for you to come to D.C. On the 19th is the June holiday, so make a trip to join us. And if you are in the DMV area, we implore that you join. If you go to SaveNigeriaGroup.org, you'll see a link to RSVP to join us at that rally. And there is also a petition on the website where you can add your name, because we are gathering a million signatures to take to President Trump and other U.S. leaders for them to act. Because indeed, like Pastor Ladi said, we have a window of opportunity. Christians would call it a kairos time. We have to act now while we still can, because this hydra, if it's not stopped — Nigeria is 240 million people, and the subregion [00:35:00] is over 500 million people. If terrorists take over that population, which are largely young people, it becomes a risk that the global community will have to deal with. That's where I'll stop for now, but I want to thank Dede for this opportunity and everyone joining this call. I look forward to any questions that there may be. Thank you, Dede.

[00:35:23] **Dede Laugesen:** Of course. Thank you, Stephen, for leading the charge for this rally in front of the White House at Lafayette Park on June 20th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We hope that all of you will join us. You don't have to be Nigerian to stand for the Christians in Nigeria. We really need many, many people there.

So if you have the opportunity to come to Washington, D.C., and be with us on June 20th, we implore you to be with us, to get your family and your friends, and especially other members of your church, to come to Washington [00:36:00] D.C. to stand for Nigerian Christians. We're not asking very much of Americans, but we really do need people en masse to show up so that the politicians in Washington, D.C., who are being plied every day by the lobbyists paid by the Nigerian government to look away, see Americans standing with Nigerian Christians. We need you present and with us on that day. So we really hope that you will come.

Mike, I wanted to come back to you. We've got this hydra of Islam that is intent on jihad, global jihad, and it will continue without stop until the whole world has submitted to Islam. But in conjunction with the threat from Islam that Christians in Nigeria are facing, the Nigerian government officials are also [00:37:00] making deals with Chinese communists and also welcoming Turkey, which leads the charge for the global caliphate, to train their soldiers. So talk to us a little bit about what China is doing in Nigeria, and why Nigeria is turning to Turkey to train their special forces.

[00:37:25] **Mike Arnold:** I describe Nigeria as similar to the hydra, as not just the head of the snake. It's the head of Medusa. All the snakes come out of there. And all of them, because of this cloak — like I said, the reverse Wakanda — thought nobody was ever going to pay attention. I think this level of scrutiny is historically unprecedented, and I think it's caught them off guard, thank God.

But you not only have the Islamists. It's now the epicenter of global terror. You not only have the Chinese communists, but [00:38:00] you have the globalists and all the

corruption that goes with that that are all hyperextended into the Nigerian cookie jar. Why? Well, they all have slightly different agendas.

The Chinese — and I can only say this from firsthand observation — are the most predatory, soulless, bloodsucking parasites when they go to Africa. And I don't know back home, but they approach it simply as an inferior place with inferior beings that it's their right to just go and loot and extract from. It's been happening for centuries, but the Chinese have made it a fine art.

The people I know in the north that interface with these — there are as many as, and I've heard different numbers, 100,000 to 150,000 Chinese nationals there. The Nigerian government, in an official document that they had to issue because of their membership in an international organization, [00:39:00] just last year documented at least \$9 billion a year of minerals being looted from the country, mainly by China, with a large percentage of that going to fund corruption and to pay the jihadis.

I've been to Bokkos not long after the Christmas massacre, a couple of months after. This is where as many as 300 Christians were massacred on Christmas Eve and Christmas, with thousands and thousands displaced. And you go there a few months later and you see the mountains of dirt from the strip-mining. It's horrific, and it's coordinated.

Now, the globalists — Obama set this all in motion to do a regime change there. What was his reasoning? Was it the Islam? Was it corruption? I don't know. But certainly it overextended the British as well.

Turkey is interesting. It was after Christmas, when Trump bombed — [00:40:00] you know, Sheikh Gumi. This guy is the imam to Boko Haram and the terrorists. This guy was the spiritual adviser to the underwear bomber. This guy last year tried to go on hajj to Saudi Arabia and was kicked out. They wouldn't even let him in because he is too radical. That guy, after Christmas, got up and said, "Oh, we need to" — and I've been warning about this — "if we put sanctions, they'll just pivot east," and that's what Gumi said. "We should be working with Turkey and China and Pakistan instead." Dutifully, President Tinubu went to Turkey and signed some deals.

Now you have this, and it's a pattern across Africa. It's a training — supposedly a military training center that's being set up. It's a Turkish military base, effectively staffed by and run by their privatized army. It's like the Turkish Wagner Group. And it is intentionally — its founding documents [00:41:00] and mission statement are to advance Islamic regimes. And they recruit their trainers from ISIS and other terrorist groups.

So here you have an Islamic country that's known to be sending arms and funds to terrorist groups, setting up a training center for the purpose of advancing an Islamic

regime, and filling it with trainers from ISIS and other terrorist groups. And that's called counterterrorism training. It's jihad training, and it's right under our noses.

We need to be paying attention to this because, yeah, Nigeria — they play secular democracy on the surface so they can be friends with the West. But the reality is they're not. They're a hardcore jihad nation, and they've got a foot on both sides of that. I think the straddle is getting harder and harder to do. We'll see where they land. But if Nigeria goes the other direction, it'll be a [00:42:00] dark century on this earth when the Islamists have total, absolute control over a trillion dollars in minerals. Their ambition is to use it as, as Stephen said, a launch pad for global jihad. They've already drawn blood in America. The Old Dominion shooter was radicalized in Nigeria. That pipeline is opening up. We need to pay attention. We need to intervene, or this giant, with this massive trajectory to be the third-largest country on earth by 2050, is going to be the biggest exporter of jihad and terror that the world has ever seen.

[00:42:32] **Dede Laugesen:** Reverend Ladi, tell us a little bit about what you think about China in Africa, and specifically in Nigeria. Is China involved not only in Nigeria, but do we see them moving across the whole Sahel? What kind of relationships are working with the Islamic world and the Chinese communists? What do you think their ultimate goal in [00:43:00] Nigeria is?

[00:43:02] **Rev. Peter Ladi Thompson:** Now, let's come at this from a very strategic perspective. What we're looking at right now is — if you permit me to say it — some women may not agree right now, but later on they will. We're looking at the rehearsal of the next world war.

On one side, we have nations — watch this carefully — we have any nation that respects and celebrates the fact that all men are created equal will end up aggregating together. On the other side, you have nations that believe that all men are not born equal. So if you reduce it to the irreducible minimum, America is the champion nation that respects the fact that all men are created equal.

And let me tell you what the truth about this is. This whole thing falls apart if we're able to inject the narrative [00:44:00] on which America was built. Don't forget that America is the only nation in the world, the first nation in the world, that invited Almighty God into its foundation in His office as Creator. So when the Founding Fathers wrote that precious treasure, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal," it was actually a global equation, an eternal truth.

And actually, what's happening in Nigeria right now is that these are the kinds of things that are missing in Nigeria. Don't forget that in this narrative, America is the great Satan. Israel is a small Satan. So if you look at all the other nations that are bonding together — and I want us to be very careful, I'll tell you why. Let me give you something very

practical. There's a war of narratives going on. Imagine all the things that Mike has pointed out that are going on in Nigeria, and yet somehow the whole world is [00:45:00] scammed. Nobody's impressed now. It's simply because they are also investing a lot into disinformation, not only in America but all over the world.

So I believe that the major thing that America needs to do for us is that we need to go beyond kinetics. If you allow me, I might even show a little prophetic video of what I believe that we need the most from America if we have —

[00:45:28] **Dede Laugesen:** If you do so quickly, we've got Mark Lipdo has joined us, so I'd like to go to him. Go ahead.

[00:45:33] **Rev. Peter Ladi Thompson:** Let me do that quickly. I'll just show this to us quickly, and I think this is what we need. If we get this, we undercut everything.

I'm going to give us a practical example because I had to go to Jos representing the Christian Association of Nigeria to talk to the head of one of the biggest Christian congregations in northern Nigeria. And when I explain to you what I had to go and do there, you'll be [00:46:00] amazed that such things are happening.

What I'm trying to point out is this: if you want to be decisive, and we really want to be wise about winning this whole thing, I was in Kaduna after one of the troubles, and we got a letter — don't ask me how — from the office of the governor. That was an office of the governor reporting on the church leader who had come to talk in Kaduna after a killing. He was so incensed, and he talked about how, how could they be killing? They don't have a monopoly on this and that.

Do you know, we had to leave Kaduna after the other consultants who were with me explained to them how the other side uses our rhetoric to raise more money in the Middle East. So you find out that there's a war of narratives going on. We have to be very [00:47:00] measured. We have to be understanding.

I'll tell you this: Nigeria, for instance, has a mix of Christians. When I spoke to that general who was here in northern Nigeria, in Jos actually, it took me about an hour to persuade him that his bold talk was resulting in raising more funding for the enemy. So there's a wisdom that is better than weapons of war that we have to adhere to.

[00:47:24] **Dede Laugesen:** Thank you for those insights, Reverend Thompson.

We have had Mark Lipdo from the Stefanos Foundation join us. Mark Lipdo is in Jos, Nigeria, so I'm not sure if he's had trouble joining us today. Stefanos Foundation provides early alerts to the communities, especially in Plateau State, and Mark regularly every week publishes a security update.

Mark, first off, let's talk a little bit about the Palm Sunday attack [00:48:00] and what you saw as the response from the officials, and what you see is going on since President Trump designated Nigeria as a country of particular concern. Is the situation getting better or worse in Jos?

[00:48:17] **Mark Lipdo:** Thank you very much for having me here. I'm really sorry. I struggled with how to join, and I've just gotten in now.

Actually, from a general observation, we have been documenting for 25 years these violence incidents in Nigeria. From 2005 we started documenting from January, and when it came to November we were actually — from August, October, then November — we were really scared of what was going to come in December. So thanks to President Trump's [00:49:00] response by sending a bomb in Nigeria, that passed a message to the terrorists that somebody somewhere is watching.

And we began to document from that December. And three months now, I think after December — from December to January 2026 to February and now March — we will soon analyze April to be able to come up with what we observed in April. But if you had to look at the general graph from December, you will see that the frequency of the attacks is actually dropping. Coming to March [00:50:00] 2026, we have 87 on our record, but from December, actually when the attacks happened and President Trump's bomb fell, it was 103. So you will see that it is dropping. However, the nature of the attacks and the targeting of the attacks have been very, very precise, directed to Christians, and the magnitude has been very, very high in order to pass a message.

Yes, my graph is there. If you can look at the graph there, you will see that the number of attacks in January is the highest, followed by February. It's dropping. March has significantly dropped, and so you will see that the frequency is actually falling. That's how it is. But then the [00:51:00] level of coverage with these attacks is very strategic. It has gone beyond the Middle Belt. It is going almost to the south now, affecting Kwara and more states.

If you look at the level of coverage, you will see that this is just what we covered in March. You'll see that all the borderlines within the southern part of the country have been covered significantly. The enemy is passing a message that this is our territory. We have subdued the far north. We have conquered the Middle Belt. We are now on the border of the south. And any person observing can see that the whole of northern Nigeria belongs to us. The southwest — nothing significant has gone in there, but they've gone into the southwest, attacking Oyo and some part of Ibadan. And then the southeast — of course you have where IPOB is. They have not been able to go in there significantly, but they've gone ahead into Port Harcourt, [00:52:00] starting some kind of violence in Port Harcourt in March.

That is the end of it. Those are the graphs that show the number of states that are most affected in March. So we will soon release an April report to show Nigerians the coverage. But in our 25 years of recording this kind of documentation, there is no doubt who is doing what. There is Boko Haram, there are Fulani herdsmen attacks, and then there is banditry. The largest is banditry, followed by herdsmen attacks, and then Boko Haram.

This violence started to be named as banditry in the far north, particularly in the northwest, whereas Boko Haram is known for the northeast. The northwest started naming the violence as banditry because they want to be politically correct as well as not to name the perpetrators as Muslims.

[00:53:51] **Dede Laugesen:** And they call them their prodigal sons and their brothers, right? The Nigerian officials?

[00:53:58] **Mark Lipdo:** Yes. They do not also want to call them [00:54:00] herdsmen because herdsmen are dominant in the northwest. And so if you go naming them directly like that, then they come on you to prove that they are. But at the moment they are no more hiding. Whether you say they are bandits or they are Fulani herdsmen, they are all one. So if you look at the perpetrators list and the magnitude, you see that Fulani herdsmen are the largest perpetrators of the current situation here.

[00:54:48] **Dede Laugesen:** But then can you tell us a little bit about the people taken captive, about the numbers that you have on that? Because I'm hearing that the Fulani and Boko Haram, ISWAP, all of them, are kidnapping people and they're holding them, and they're literally bankrupting entire communities. And as I see it, that's how they soften up the community with the kidnapping for ransom, [00:55:00] and then just rotating multiple family members through these hostage camps.

[00:55:05] **Mark Lipdo:** That's right.

[00:55:06] **Dede Laugesen:** And some of them are killed. They're always tortured and raped and starved in these camps. Why does the Nigerian government have such a hard time getting on top of the kidnapping for ransom? And how does that play with the village attacks and the taking over of the land?

[00:55:42] **Mark Lipdo:** We try to find out why the Nigerian government has not said anything about it, but to some of us it's very clear. The NSA is Fulani, and the president of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs is a Fulani man, and they have come out to say that the terrorists are their brothers. So it appears that they're giving the terrorists cover under their own narrative so that they allow them to continue to perpetrate [00:56:00] what we are seeing now as evil as Fulani herdsmen are becoming dominant all over the Middle Belt.

[00:56:28] **Dede Laugesen:** I've heard that some officials, even whether they're in the military or holding public office, that there are some officials that are actually renting out arms from the military to the Fulani groups to perpetrate these acts of violence, and then they just turn the weaponry back in. Do you know anything about that?

[00:56:52] **Mark Lipdo:** I wouldn't doubt that, because there are active people within the military that, if they are the ones heading the [00:57:00] military within the area where Christians are found, most of the time the response of the military is almost zero. And so if they are the ones to aid the perpetrators, I wouldn't be in doubt. But I know that Fulani are in possession of a lot of these firearms, particularly AK-47s. They don't hide it anymore. They hang it on themselves and move freely.

[00:57:32] **Dede Laugesen:** And those arms came from Turkey through Libya, right? Is that how the majority of those arms came into Nigeria?

[00:57:42] **Mark Lipdo:** We do not have those information from my side. But we know that there are times that these weapons arrive at the ports in Lagos, and they were arrested. We know that some indicated that they started [00:58:00] coming from Iran. They were supplied through Iran. Some alleged that it is from Turkey. So I will not doubt that some of this information is true. But we know that there is a high level of proliferation of this weaponry now with the Fulani.

And to the extent that if anything happens within the community that offends the Fulani, they go to the softest target.

[00:58:29] **Dede Laugesen:** Can you tell us a little bit about the suppression of news about these attacks and what they're doing to the victims after these attacks in terms of threatening them to be quiet? I know that the Palm Sunday attack, which was obviously a day of religious celebration for Christians everywhere, everybody had gathered in the neighborhood that evening, were hanging out and just enjoying the evening, when [00:59:00] the terrorists somehow got inside of Jos, passed multiple security checkpoints, and were able to open fire on the people gathered there. And then the government came out and said that this was not a religious-based attack. This was just some criminals and bandits out having some kind of fun or something while they're mowing people down with their automatic weapons. But afterwards, the government was very, very specific about saying this was not a religious-based attack. Your thoughts on that, Mark?

[00:59:34] **Mark Lipdo:** What we know is that the majority of Nigerians still depend on the security operatives to provide intelligence. Even when you have intelligence about impending attacks, you go to the security network to be able to receive that intelligence and make use of it to protect the people. So some of those informations, when they are

[01:00:00] given to the security, they act at will. Whenever you tell them who you think is the perpetrator, they turn it down.

These perpetrators already know that they are being concealed. They target a place where they pass their message intensely, and then they carry out the attack. That's why they knew that Angwan Rukuba is a densely Christian and ethnically mixed area, and it would be most — those people that were attacked there from Jos North, about 330 houses that we know shifted from Jos North from 2010 down to 2012, most of those people are now resident in Angwan Rukuba. So you can imagine they know that these are already an aggrieved community. It is going to be difficult to [01:01:00] penetrate them. But if they are able to penetrate this community, they pass the message that they are defiant.

That day they drove themselves — about seven armed men dropped themselves in tricycles, as I heard — and they moved into this community quietly. Before then there are groups that authorities usually send in search of arms within the communities, in search of drugs within the communities. People thought that the drug law enforcement force were the ones that were there passing with arms. So unknown to the community, which was a very secure community, they actually thought these were Nigerian authorities carrying out their activities until they started shooting. And they went to choice spots. They went to the [01:02:00] pharmacies where people always go to obtain their drugs and buy their drugs in the evening, and where the drug law officers also go there to check the influx of these drugs. So they started attacking from there.

People were confused. Who could have come in with this level of firearms to attack the community? So people were not sure who they were. And most of the security men that were protecting the area were running because they were not prepared for this kind of surprise attack, and that's why they were able to escape.

But they were apprehended. Security men have also brought these people. We heard the first time that there were seven people arrested, but now we are seeing that only four were arraigned. And yes, the judiciary has started action on that to prove to us that these are the perpetrators. So this is the nature of the targeting. About three local governments were targeted within the Palm Sunday [01:03:00] period. Bassa, which was close here to Jos, also was targeted and attacked. And Bokkos — whole families. They go to one family and wipe out all the people so that it'll pass a very fierce message to the community that you are not safe.

Now, what will be the action of the community? It is actually to be confused. You are motivated to defend yourself, but you don't know how. You are motivated to provide the perpetrators, but you don't know who. And you know the perpetrators, but no one has arraigned them. So when the community begins attacking people they see and suspect

as perpetrators, they are the ones who are being arrested and arraigned before the media, that they're the perpetrators. So this leaves the community more vulnerable.

In Nigeria, they just attacked now in — where they went to this church and they took down [01:04:00] Pastor Yayi and his wife and his children, a pastor in my church. So they go to a family and make sure that the wife — the people that are there — so that they kill gruesomely. They slaughter the people so that it'll pass the message that you are not safe. So most communities that are struggling to live together with the Fulani are always counting on death. You will not know whether it's you the next time. You don't know whether someone somewhere is targeting you. But you are expected to live there and live in peace with these people you know will kill you the next time.

[01:04:53] **Dede Laugesen:** I can't imagine living in that kind of high-anxiety, high-stress situation under trauma at [01:05:00] all times. And this is the daily reality for families in Nigeria. And, you know, it's hard for Americans — I'm just a mom from Colorado, and I'm not a political science major. I've never held political office. But what is happening to the families of Nigeria tears at my heartstrings, and I could not look away. And that's why I'm here with all of you today, because the families, the children, the elderly, the moms, the dads, the brothers and sisters in Nigeria who are families just like our families here in America are experiencing the most grievous daily violence and living under trauma at all times.

And the children are not going to school because it's too dangerous, and that means that their employment opportunities are less. And the children of Nigeria are open to radicalization. It's not a good [01:06:00] scene. And if Nigeria implodes, the number of people who will flow out of Nigeria, out of the Sahel, into Europe, heading towards America, is going to far surpass that which we saw under ISIS.

So this is a national security situation for the United States. If the jihad takes root in Nigeria as they intend to do, then we have a country like Iran, just across the Atlantic Ocean from the United States, with a Chinese communist port — the Lekki port — that has been built there and is managed by China. So the threat grows closer to the United States, and Nigeria with all of its resources and oil and human population is a country that cannot [01:07:00] be ignored by America.

And we need to understand, you know, Christianity is growing at its fastest rate in Africa, by leaps and bounds. The faith of the people in Africa is being captured by Jesus, and we hear that Jesus is literally visiting Muslims across the Middle East into Africa, and He's coming to them in dreams and visions, and He's explaining the gospel to them. And there are many who are coming to Christ, though that is a death sentence, to leave Islam for any other religion.

So we must pray, but we must also act. We cannot sit on the sidelines while our brothers and sisters are suffering.

I want to thank you all for joining us today for this second Nigeria Update briefing. Our next episode will be on Wednesday, May 13th, at 11:00 a.m. [01:08:00] We'll have Dr. Gloria Samdudu, who is the president of the Leah Foundation. She is the family of Leah Sharibu's appointed representative and will be with us. Leah Sharibu's birthday is the following day, on May 14th, so we'll be acknowledging her birthday. She is still in captivity with ISWAP and has been held there, forced into a marriage to a Boko Haram commander, and likely has three children at this point in captivity.

She, of course, is the teenager who at 14 — her peers say when they came back — she was taken captive with 105 schoolgirls on February 19th, 2018. All of the other girls were released within a month, but Leah was kept. And her friends say that every time the terrorists came in with their [01:09:00] guns demanding, "Who here is Christian?" Leah's arm would shoot up, and her friends would be hanging on her arm trying to pull it down. But she was resolute in her Christian faith, and that's why Boko Haram kept her. They said, "We are keeping her as a slave for life because our religion says we can."

So Leah Sharibu — we will recognize her, we will love on her, we will pray for her, and we'll hear from Dr. Gloria Samdudu. We'll also have Sarah Makin, who is the former National Security Adviser for International Religious Freedom under the first Trump administration. She'll be joining us, and we hope to have a couple of other very special guests as well. So I hope you'll be with us May 13th. You should get an email from Zoom. This is a subscriber-based webinar series, so you should get the email, and we look forward to having you.

Please [01:10:00] remember to RSVP for the June 20th rally for Nigeria in Washington, D.C., at SaveNigeriaGroup.org, and we'll see you again on May 13th. Goodbye, everybody.