

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 15, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to express our concern with current U.S. policy on and military support to Nigeria. Last month, Reuters completed a series of investigations into the Nigerian military's conduct, which revealed an alleged secret mass forced [abortion](#) program since 2013 and apparent systemic [targeted](#) killings of children, in addition to a consistent record of human rights abuses and civilian casualties. Despite this, the United States recently [approved](#) a \$997 million sale of 12 AH-1Z Attack Helicopters and related training and equipment to Nigeria.

Over the last 20 years, the United States has had a [significant](#) security partnership with Nigeria, with more than \$232 million in security assistance, \$1.6 billion in foreign military sales, and \$305 million in direct commercial sales. While the United States has paired its security assistance with trainings focused on international law compliance, humanitarian workers on the ground [report](#) that Nigeria's security forces "appear to have a limited understanding of humanitarian law and tools for effective engagement with local populations." Moreover, the assistance we have provided has done little to stem the conflict – in fact, insecurity has worsened from the abuses committed by Nigerian forces. On top of all of this, there continue to be [reports](#) of weapons [captured](#) by insurgents – weapons that the State Department and Defense Department [have proven](#) unable to sufficiently track.

Therefore, we believe continuing to move forward with the nearly \$1 billion arms sale would be highly inappropriate and we urge the Administration to rescind it. Given the recent reporting of Nigeria's previously unknown mass forced abortion program – which allegedly ended at least 10,000 pregnancies – and the targeting of potentially thousands of children, we also urge a review of security assistance and cooperation programs in Nigeria to include a risk assessment of civilian casualties and abuses resulting from such assistance and whether such assistance has ever been diverted or had any significant positive effect on the conflict and violence in Nigeria.

We respectfully request a briefing on the progress of this review no later than 30 days after receipt of this letter. Thank you for your attention to this important matter and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sara Jacobs". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter being a large, stylized 'S'.

Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter being a large, stylized 'C'.

Chris Smith
Member of Congress

CC:

Antony Blinken, Secretary
U.S. Department of State

Lloyd Austin, Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense