



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

Vicky Ford MP

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Dame Meg Hillier MP
House of Commons
London
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Our ref:
Your ref:

31 August 2022

Dear Dame Meg,

Thank you for your correspondence of 27 July, on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED] about Yoruba independence. I am replying as the minister for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.

The UK Government shares your constituents' concerns about the range of security challenges Nigeria faces, which includes violence in the South West. This is having a devastating impact on affected communities. The UK Government condemns all violence against civilians in Nigeria, including that which affects Yoruba communities.

Whilst security in Nigeria is the responsibility of the Nigerian government, I would like to reassure your constituent that I have discussed their response to insecurity with the Nigerian authorities on a number of occasions. Most recently with Foreign Minister Onyeama and Vice President Osinbajo when I visited Nigeria in February. I also raised this issue with Nigeria's National Security Adviser, General Monguno, during the inaugural dialogue of the UK-Nigeria Security and Defence Partnership in February. The Prime Minister also discussed insecurity with President Buhari at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in June.

It is important to note that the perpetrators of violence do not come from any one ethnic or religious group, and the effects are felt by communities of different faiths and ethnicities. Across the country, we are supporting local and national peace-building efforts to encourage dialogue between the many ethnic groups and communities that make up and contribute to the strength and diversity of Nigeria.

Finally, your constituent calls for the UK Government to recognise an independent Yoruba nation. The UK Government respects the territorial integrity of Nigeria. We support the Nigerian Government's commitment to work for a secure and prosperous Nigeria for all its citizens, and is committed to working with Nigeria, in support of this objective.

The UK Government will continue to support Nigeria to uphold its responsibility to tackle rising insecurity, whilst also encouraging the Nigerian Government to take urgent action to implement long-term solutions that address the root causes of violence and to hold perpetrators to account.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Vicky Ford". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vicky Ford MP
Minister for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean