

All you have to do is read the May 31st article in Foreign Affairs magazine by former Ambassador John Campbell and Robert Rotberg titled “The Giant of Africa is Failing.” Ambassador Campbell is now with the Council on Foreign Relations and Rotberg is president emeritus of the World Peace Foundation.

Nigeria is the largest country in Africa, and the article says, “That is why state failure in Nigeria is having profound consequences for the entire region—and beyond. It bodes especially ill for the stability and well-being of weak states in Nigeria’s vicinity, as evidenced by the spread of jihadi and criminal groups to Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Ivory Coast, Mali and Niger.”

In Nigeria there is

Genocide by Boko Haram

Genocidal activity by Fulani militants

Rampant hunger according to the World Food Program

Little to no education in parts of the country

Sexual Trafficking—15,000 women and girls in Italy

Massive government corruption

Human rights abuses by the military

Mass migration out of Nigeria

And we see little action by the West, including the U.S.

I have two recommendations to deal with the issue.

First.

Our government needs trusted input that could help U.S. policy makers to achieve mitigation and ultimate solutions. The idea stood out from the pages of Robert Kaplan's latest book, "The Good American—the Epic Life of Bob Gersony, the U.S. Government's Greatest Humanitarian." Bob Gersony is an independent consultant who has

provided State Department and USAID decision-makers with indispensable ground-truthed information to help deal with major international humanitarian crises under both Republican and Democrat administrations. Bob Gersony has agreed to travel to Nigeria and provide a report if asked by the State Department or USAID.

My second recommendation is that I believe we need a Special Envoy for Nigeria and the Lake Chad region. The problems of Nigeria have spilled over into the neighboring countries of the Lake Chad region. Boko Haram, Fulani militants and ISIS are now operating in these countries. The Special Envoy would work with all the American Ambassadors, in Nigeria and the surrounding countries as well. The Special Envoy can coordinate the U.S. response to the crisis by various agencies of our government and can work with our European allies and also with the U.N. and other international agencies.

There is a precedent for a Special Envoy. In 2001 President Bush appointed former Senator John Danforth to be Special Envoy for Sudan. This was a successful effort.

In a Wall Street Journal article in December 2019 Bernard Henri Levy said what is happening in Nigeria could lead to a Darfur or a Rwanda. When the world and the U.S. ignored genocide in Rwanda, hundreds of thousands of people died.

History is repeating itself.