



Grant Gochin <ggochin@gmail.com>

Request for Diplomatic Clarification and Correction1 message

Grant Arthur Gochin <ggochin@gmail.com>

Tue, Aug 11, 2026 at 10:18 AM

Reply-To: ggochin@gmail.com

To: info@nigeriaembassyusa.org, publiccomplaints@nigeriaembassyusa.org

Dear Chargé d'Affaires,

For onward transmission to the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

I write respectfully in relation to an article published on 7 August 2026 by Chief Femi Fani-Kayode, identified in the article as Nigeria's Ambassador-designate to South Africa, titled "A bond that must never be broken (V)."

I write as Grant Arthur Gochin, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Togo in California. I am also an American, South African, and Lithuanian citizen. I am Jewish. I am not Israeli, and I am not a diplomatic representative of Israel.

The article refers to South African Justice Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi's allegation that "foreign entities are stoking unrest in South Africa." It then states that "we do not have to dig too deep to know just who those foreign entities are" when considering an essay written by "Israeli columnist Grant Arthur Gotchin" in the Times of Israel. My name is misspelled, my nationality and diplomatic status are mischaracterized, and my published political argument is placed inside a narrative of hidden foreign interference, financing, and destabilization.

This is misinformed, inaccurate, misguided, misleading, and inflammatory.

I fully recognize that Chief Fani-Kayode's article appears as opinion commentary and that political writing allows robust disagreement. However, diplomatic status and prospective diplomatic appointment also require care, accuracy, and responsibility. A diplomat, ambassador-designate, or senior public figure should not conflate Jewish identity with Israeli state action, should not describe a Jewish writer as "Israeli" without basis, and should not place a published article inside a narrative of foreign destabilization without identifying evidence.

I therefore respectfully request that the Ministry clarify the following:

First, does Chief Fani-Kayode, in his personal or official capacity, allege that I funded, directed, coordinated, encouraged, incited, organized, or operationally controlled anti-migrant unrest in South Africa?

Second, does he allege that I acted on behalf of Israel, Mossad, the Israeli government, or any other foreign state in relation to South African unrest?

Third, if any such allegation is intended, what is the evidentiary

basis? Please identify the recipient, amount, payment route, intermediary, instruction, organization, communication, date, or operational act said to connect me to such activity.

Fourth, if no such allegation is intended, I respectfully request that the public record be corrected to state clearly that I am not Israeli, that I am not a diplomatic representative of Israel, and that my Times of Israel article was a published opinion argument, not evidence of funding, coordination, incitement, intelligence activity, or foreign-state policy.

I have published more than 400 articles in the Times of Israel. To select one article, detach it from its stated argument for lawful, democratic, referendum-based self-determination, and place it inside a theory of foreign destabilization is not responsible analysis. It encourages collective blame, stereotyping, and conspiracy thinking against Jews and Israel while distracting from the actual causes of South Africa's migration crisis.

My position is simple and public: South Africa's failures were made in South Africa. Unemployment, corruption, lawlessness, border failure, service-delivery collapse, Afrophobia, and political incompetence were not created by Zimbabweans, Malawians, Mozambicans, Nigerians, Jews, Zionists, Israel, Times of Israel, or Grant Gochin.

I have no quarrel with Nigeria. On the contrary, Nigeria has every right to defend Nigerians in South Africa from xenophobia, Afrophobia, collective blame, and unlawful targeting. That is precisely why accuracy matters. African migrants should not be scapegoated by South Africans, and Jews should not be scapegoated by those seeking to explain South African unrest through a foreign-hidden-hand theory.

I respectfully ask the Embassy to transmit this request to the Ministry and to Chief Fani-Kayode for clarification and correction.

Relevant links:

TheCable article:

<https://www.thecable.ng/a-bond-that-must-never-be-broken-v/>

Times of Israel article discussed:

<https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/africa-must-fragment-south-africa-first/>

My response to the broader conspiracy theory:

<https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/the-construction-of-a-conspiracy-theory/>

Yours faithfully,

Grant Arthur Gochin
Honorary Consul of the Republic of Togo in California
American, South African, and Lithuanian citizen