



Grant Gochin <ggochin@gmail.com>

Second Formal Demand — Retraction, Apology and Correction of False Foreign-Interference Allegation

1 message

Grant Arthur Gochin <ggochin@gmail.com>

Sun, Aug 23, 2026 at 4:07 PM

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 and to Chief Femi Fani-Kayode.

On 11 August 2026, I wrote to the Embassy under the subject “**Request for Diplomatic Clarification and Correction.**” A copy of that email is preserved here:

<https://static-cdn.toi-media.com/blogs/uploads/2026/08/Gmail-Request-for-Diplomatic-Clarification-and-Correction.pdf>

In that email I addressed Chief Femi Fani-Kayode's article, *A Bond That Must Never Be Broken (V)*, and specifically asked whether he was alleging that I funded, directed, coordinated, encouraged, incited, organised or otherwise controlled unrest in South Africa; whether he was alleging that I acted on behalf of Israel or any other foreign state; and, if so, what evidence supported those allegations. I also expressly requested a correction if no such allegation was intended.

I have received no reply.

The problem has meanwhile become substantially more serious.

Chief Fani-Kayode's article does not merely disagree with something I wrote. It first presents a narrative about hidden financing, asks who is “writing the cheques,” endorses the claim that “foreign entities are stoking unrest in South Africa,” and then tells readers that they need not “dig too deep” to identify those foreign entities, pointing directly to an article by me and falsely describing me as “**Israeli columnist Grant Arthur Gotchin.**” It then characterises the supposed objective as an imperialistic and neo-colonial project intended to destroy, divide and rule Africa.

I am not Israeli. My name is Grant Arthur **Gochin**, not Gotchin. I am not an agent, representative or operative of Israel. I have not financed, organised, directed or incited anti-migrant unrest in South Africa. No evidence has been presented that I have done any of those things.

My published argument concerned lawful, democratic and referendum-based national self-determination. A published political opinion is not evidence that its author is secretly financing riots, directing political movements or operating on behalf of a foreign government.

Yet this allegation has now been disseminated repeatedly. I have identified the following **eleven third-party republications** carrying Chief Fani-Kayode's article and the passage concerning me:

1. **TheCable** — *A bond that must never be broken (V)* — 7 August 2026
<https://www.thecable.ng/a-bond-that-must-never-be-broken-v/>
2. **Premium Times Nigeria** — *A bond that must never be broken (5), By Femi Fani-Kayode* — 7 August 2026
<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/opinion/901260-a-bond-that-must-never-be-broken-5-by-femi-fani-kayode.html>
3. **Leadership** — *A Bond That Must Never Be Broken (Part 5)* — 7 August 2026
<https://leadership.ng/a-bond-that-must-never-be-broken-part-5/>
4. **Blueprint Newspapers** — *A bond that must never be broken (Part 5)* — 7 August 2026
<https://blueprint.ng/a-bond-that-must-never-be-broken-part-5/>

5. **Vanguard** — *S/AFRICA: A bond that must never be broken* (5) — 7 August 2026
<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2026/08/s-africa-a-bond-that-must-never-be-broken-5/>
6. **The Sun Nigeria** — *A BOND THAT MUST NEVER BE BROKEN* (5) — 7 August 2026
<https://thesun.ng/a-bond-that-must-never-be-broken-5/>
7. **The Eagle Online** — *A bond that must never be broken* (5), by Femi Fani-Kayode — 7 August 2026
<https://theeagleonline.com.ng/a-bond-that-must-never-be-broken-5-by-femi-fani-kayode/>
8. **Reuben Abati** — *[OPINION] A Bond That Must Never be Broken (V) – Femi Fani-Kayode* — 7 August 2026
<https://www.reubenabati.com/opinion/opinion-a-bond-that-must-never-be-broken-v-femi-fani-kayode>
9. **Modern Ghana** — *A Bond That Must Never Be Broken – Part 5* — 7 August 2026
<https://www.modernghana.com/news/1517352/a-bond-that-must-never-be-broken-part.html>
10. **The Nation** — *A Bond That Must Never be Broken* (5) — 7 August 2026
<https://thenationonlineng.net/a-bond-that-must-never-be-broken-5/>
11. **The Trent** — *Nigeria, South Africa Must Protect a Bond Forged in Struggle, By Fani-Kayode (Part 5)* — 16 August 2026
<https://www.thetrentonline.com/nigeria-south-africa-must-protect-a-bond-forged-in-struggle-by-fani-kayode-part-5-must-read/>

The same article also appears on **Chief Fani-Kayode's own official website**:

<https://femifanikayode.org/a-bond-that-must-never-be-broken-part-5-by-chief-femi-fani-kayode/>

In addition, **PRNigeria** independently reported and repeated the allegation on 7 August 2026, again describing me as an Israeli columnist and linking my published writing to supposed geopolitical interests exploiting unrest in South Africa:

<https://prnigeria.com/2026/08/07/fani-kayode-urges-south-africa/>

That is therefore at least **thirteen publicly accessible web instances**: eleven third-party republications, Chief Fani-Kayode's own publication, and an independent news report repeating the allegation.

One fact is especially disturbing. I sent my formal complaint to the Nigerian Embassy on **11 August**. *The Trent* published another version containing the allegation on **16 August**, after Nigeria had already been formally placed on notice of the problem.

This is no longer a matter of an isolated misdescription in a single opinion column.

The rhetoric appears in the context of actual political and xenophobic tension in South Africa. It discusses hidden financiers, burnt shops, attacks on Africans, unidentified foreign actors and political destabilisation, and then places a named Jewish writer inside that narrative without evidence.

In my view, this is instigating violence and placing me at risk. When a prominent political figure and Ambassador-designate tells readers confronting unrest and violence that a named individual is a clue to the identity of hidden "foreign entities" supposedly seeking to "destroy, divide and rule" Africa, that rhetoric can create a target. Repetition across numerous publications magnifies the danger.

This is particularly troubling coming from a person presented throughout these publications as Nigeria's Ambassador-designate or High Commissioner-designate to South Africa.

I therefore no longer request only clarification. **I demand correction, retraction and apology.**

Specifically, I request:

1. **An unequivocal public retraction by Chief Femi Fani-Kayode** of any allegation or implication that I am an Israeli agent, a foreign-state actor, a financier or organiser of South African unrest, or part of any hidden operation to destabilise South Africa.
2. **A public apology to me** for falsely identifying me as Israeli and for placing me, without evidence, within a narrative of foreign financing, destabilisation and neo-colonial conspiracy.

3. **A factual correction** stating that I am not Israeli, that I do not represent the State of Israel, and that the Times of Israel article cited by Chief Fani-Kayode was published political commentary advocating lawful democratic self-determination—not evidence of financing, intelligence activity, covert coordination or incitement.
4. **Written requests from Chief Fani-Kayode to every publication to which his article was supplied or in which it was republished**, asking that the offending allegation be retracted or accompanied by the correction and apology.
5. **A written statement from the Nigerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs** confirming whether the Federal Government of Nigeria endorses or disavows the allegation or implication that I am involved in foreign interference or unrest in South Africa.
6. If Chief Fani-Kayode continues to maintain any such allegation, **production of the evidence** I requested on 11 August: the payment, recipient, intermediary, communication, instruction, organisation, operational act or other evidence that supposedly connects me to unrest in South Africa or to action on behalf of Israel or any foreign state.

There are two legitimate possibilities.

If evidence exists, produce it.

If evidence does not exist, retract the accusation, correct the record and apologise.

What is not acceptable is to identify a private individual as part of a hidden foreign conspiracy, circulate that insinuation across numerous media outlets, provide no evidence, and then leave the accusation standing.

Nigeria is entitled to defend its citizens against xenophobia and collective blame. That principle should apply consistently. Nigerians should not be collectively blamed for South Africa's problems, and neither should a Jewish writer be turned into a supposed foreign hand behind them.

I respectfully request a substantive written response within seven days and immediate steps toward the public correction, retraction and apology requested above.

Yours faithfully,

Grant Arthur Gochin
Honorary Consul of the Republic of Togo in California