

NIGERIA

General Information

- Population: over 175 million, the most populous country in Africa and the seventh most populous country in the world
- Been under a civilian government since 1999
- The country is inhabited by over 500 ethnic groups.
- The two most dominant religions are Christianity and Islam.

Challenges

- Government faces growing challenge of preventing fracturing of national along ethnic and religious lines.
- Militant Islamists are trying to implement Sharia Law in various provinces and are persecuting others of different faiths, especially Christians.
- Thousands have died over the past few years in attacks led by al-Qaeda ally Boko Haram.
- People tend to be slow to build friendships among Latvians.

Prayer

- For the return of over 200 schoolgirls, including Christians, taken hostage by Boko Haram.
- For boldness for Christians in Nigeria, to be faithful and persuasive in the midst of persecution.

Reference

- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria>
- <http://m.bbc.com/news/world-africa-13949550>
- <http://www.cnn.com/2014/05/28/world/africa/nigeria-boko-haram-attacks/index.html>
- http://www.washingtonpost.com/sports/colleges/working-to-solve-plight-of-nigerian-girls-through-small-but-significant-steps/2014/05/30/feaa13a-e816-11e3-8f90-73e071f3d637_story.html