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11-2020

## **Report 2: A Nigerian Trump Parade**

Creative Inquiry

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## Report 2: A Nigerian Trump Parade

On November 3, 2020 at 9:38 AM, President Donald Trump retweeted a video from Abraham O. Adeyemi (see Image 1 and Appendix 1) showing a parade of Nigerians for Trump.<sup>1</sup> President Trump retweeted it with the message, “A parade for me in Nigeria, a great honor!” The individuals taking part were holding Trump 2020 signs, waving American flags, and singing.

Although many commenters assumed a parade for Trump was unlikely and probably fake, the parade turned out to be authentic. However, there appears to be an inauthentic connection between the church who organized the parade and two other organizations, Plain Truth Now and Civil Rights International (Appendix 2 and 3). There have also been accusations of violence, robbery, murder, and injustice perpetrated by the church and its leader.

Image 1. A tweet from @realDonaldTrump about the parade



### Confusion Surrounding the Parade

Posted the day of the US election, the tweet garnered a wide variety of reactions. While supporters of Trump were gladdened by the parade, there was skepticism and confusion among others. Many questioned why Donald Trump is popular among Nigeria’s citizens given that he

<sup>1</sup> <https://archive.is/PsKgw>

previously referred to African countries as “shit holes,” (Image 2)<sup>2</sup> called the President of Nigeria, “lifeless”<sup>3</sup> and made it more difficult for Nigerians to obtain visas in 2019 (Image 3).<sup>4</sup>

Image 2. A tweet from @Headfullofnigh1



Image 3. A tweet from @zubbyifeaka



Other people questioned whether the parade was authentic. Some users thought the video was fake, suggesting that perhaps it was doctored (Image 4). One user said parts of the video were more blurry than others and believed this to be evidence of the video’s inauthenticity (Image 5).

Image 4. A tweet from @goodmanbianka

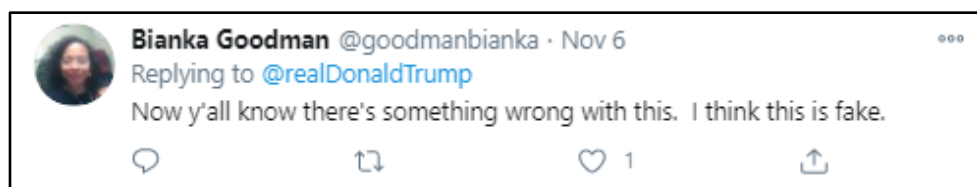
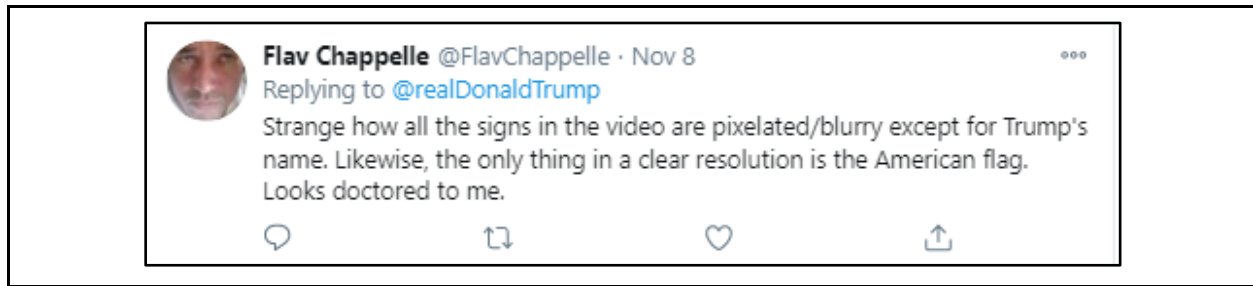


Image 5. A tweet from @FlavChappelle

<sup>2</sup> <https://archive.is/1NnZZ>

<sup>3</sup> <http://archive.is/d8h4R>

<sup>4</sup> <https://archive.is/wip/McXgh>

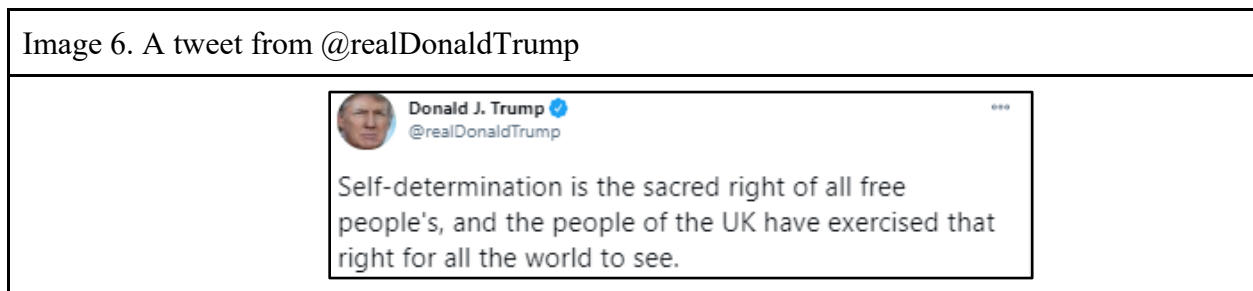


Despite skepticism, though, the video appears to be legitimate. The video was first posted from Twitter user, Abraham Adeyemi (@Berean16031989), a pro-Trump pastor from Fellowship Baptist Church Akure in Nigeria.<sup>5</sup> The parade was organized by the members of a different church, Living Christ Mission (LCM) (Appendix 4). LCM has been very vocal about their support for President Trump<sup>6</sup> and a press release from their website authenticated the parade.<sup>7</sup> These findings suggest that it is more than likely that the video is authentic and represents genuine support from some portion of the Nigerian public for President Trump.

### Trump's Popularity in Nigeria

Although Twitter users wondered how Trump had possibly gained enough support among Nigerians for a parade, support for him began before he even ran for president in 2016. His book, *The Art of the Deal*, had already been a best-seller in Nigeria for many years, where he was seen as a business mogul.<sup>8</sup> He then gained respect from Biafra secessionists when he tweeted in response to Britain's EU referendum result in 2016, saying: "self-determination is the sacred right of all free people's, [sic]" which was seen as "veiled support for a Biafran state" (see Appendix 5 and Image 6).<sup>9</sup>

Image 6. A tweet from @realDonaldTrump



A 2018 poll by Pew Research Center Service showed that support for Trump was significantly higher in Nigeria than in other countries. While results from France, Mexico,

<sup>5</sup> <https://archive.is/y09mQ>

<sup>6</sup> <https://archive.is/UUvmn>

<sup>7</sup> <http://archive.vn/TjL5S>

<sup>8</sup> <https://archive.is/coCob>

<sup>9</sup> <https://archive.is/coCob>

Tunisia, the UK, and Japan ranged from 9% to 30% confidence in his abilities, Nigeria's results showed 59% confidence.<sup>10</sup> Much of his popularity stems from his alignment with widely-held beliefs. Nigerians appreciate his off-the-cuff and abrasive style of speaking because they view it as authentic; Nigerian writer Adaobi Tricia Nwaubani notes that Nigerians are "used to leaders who speak without restraint, who are verbally abusive when they please . . . and he's not as outlandish to [them] as he may appear to an American".<sup>11</sup> They also appreciate his America-First mentality and believe that all political leaders should put their countries first.<sup>12</sup>

Nigerian political communication strategist, Ayobami Adekojo, adds that Christians and Muslims "align on a lot of things when it comes down to core conservatism and it goes a long way in fostering Trump support in Nigeria." Many Nigerians were raised in deeply religious homes, and Trump represents their conservative values, including his anti-abortion stance.<sup>13</sup> In fact, his popularity is so wide-spread that it's not unusual to see portraits of him being sold from open stalls on the streets of Nigeria (Image 7).<sup>14</sup>

Image 7. A Portrait of Donald Trump commonly sold in Nigeria



While support for Trump can be explained, the church who organized the parade, LCM, raised some red flags that prompted further investigation.

### Living Christ Mission

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<sup>10</sup> <https://archive.is/NMRD1>

<sup>11</sup> <https://archive.is/nS5IR>

<sup>12</sup> <https://archive.is/coCob>

<sup>13</sup> <https://archive.is/h8TZM>

<sup>14</sup> <https://archive.is/coCob>

On their website, LCM describes their founder, Victor Obi Onukogu, who calls himself “His Grace, the Most Reverend Professor Daddy Hezekiah”. The website mentions many unusual details about Daddy Hezekiah’s life. Born in Calabar, Nigeria, he claims to have experienced divine intervention several times. When he was young, he claims to have been struck by a strange illness that made the hair on his scalp “fall off,” but he was miraculously healed. He then began “unconsciously performing miracles” using saliva and sand to heal friends’ football injuries. He says that later, in 1967, God spoke to him while he was playing football with his friends to prompt him to devote himself to God.<sup>15</sup>

Daddy Hezekiah founded the LCM church in 1983. Some of LCM’s successes according to their website include: building houses for the poor, paying hospital bills for the impoverished, feeding thousands on a daily basis, and donating to nations in distress, including a thirty-thousand dollar donation to the US government after the 2001 terrorist attacks.<sup>16</sup> These claims, however, are unsubstantiated.

Daddy Hezekiah is continuously praised on LCM’s website. The website describes a clean record, claiming that he never missed church, was very popular, and was never influenced by partying and clubbing culture. He is also described to be “positively outstanding,” physically strong, fearless, and always protective of vulnerable people in school, even willing to beat up those who harassed girls in the village. The website’s description of his character seemed grandiose and unrealistic.

Given the incredible life Daddy Hezekiah claims to have lived and the significant achievements his church claims to have accomplished, it would be expected that LCM would have substantial support beyond its own village; however, it does not appear to. Support for Daddy Hezekiah seems to be limited to apparent members of his church, as well as two unusual organizations, Plain Truth Now (hereafter “PTN”) and Civil Rights International (hereafter “CRI”).

### **Plain Truth Now and Civil Rights International**

In October of 2020, authors Alyssa Kann, Jackson Eilers, and Shelby Grossman from the Digital Forensic Research Lab and the Stanford Internet Observatory published a report about the connections between PTN and CRI through the Election Integrity Partnership (EIP) (see Appendix 6). The report’s main focus was the spread of false election related claims from both organizations’ websites and Facebook accounts. The report found that PTN and CRI cross-posted identical content, including a mix of Nigerian and US politics (Images 8-13). The report’s conclusion was that the two organizations are connected and coordinated to spread false voting claims.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> <https://archive.is/OKmWx>

<sup>16</sup> <https://archive.is/8cVdj>

<sup>17</sup> <https://archive.is/RIH6y>

Image 8. Headline on CRI <sup>18</sup>	Image 9. Headline on PTN <sup>19</sup>
<b>BIDEN-HARRIS TICKET, THE CORRUPT TODDLERS WHO WANT TO LEAD AMERICA</b>	<b>BIDEN-HARRIS TICKET, THE CORRUPT TODDLERS WHO WANT TO LEAD AMERICA</b>

Image 10. Headline on CRI <sup>20</sup>	Image 11. Headline on PTN <sup>21</sup>
<b>DEMOCRATS' PUSH FOR MAIL-IN VOTING, VERY FRAUDULENT</b>	<b>DEMOCRATS' PUSH FOR MAIL-IN VOTING, VERY FRAUDULENT</b>

Image 12. Headline on CRI <sup>22</sup>	Image 13. Headline on PTN <sup>23</sup>
<b>SKY NEWS, UNIMAGINABLY BIASED: WHERE HAS JOURNALISTIC INTEGRITY GONE?</b>	<b>SKY NEWS, UNIMAGINABLY BIASED: WHERE HAS JOURNALISTIC INTEGRITY GONE?</b>

An important finding that the EIP report did not identify was that PTN and CRI appear to *also* be closely connected to a third organization, LCM. The same political messaging that is prominent on the websites of PTN and CRI is also found on the LCM Twitter account. The same themes of conservative, pro-Trump, anti-Buhari, and anti-Biden political content are shared among all three organizations (see Images 8-13). CRI has also specifically mentioned Daddy Hezekiah and his church in many of their articles since 2014.<sup>24</sup> The observation from EIP report that PTN and CRI post identical articles on both of their websites holds true for the articles that praise Daddy Hezekiah.

Another link between the three organizations is Samuel Amechi Anyaegbu, a Nigerian individual, who was discussed in the EIP report. The report found that the same email address was used to register the websites of both PTN and the CRI (see Images 14 and 15). What the report did not disclose is that the same individual registered an additional list of websites related to LCM (see Image 16). Anyaegbu is also an officer of LCM's church (see Image 17).

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<sup>18</sup> <https://archive.is/ZdHs5>

<sup>19</sup> <https://archive.is/ZdHs5>

<sup>20</sup> <https://archive.is/FhIPF>

<sup>21</sup> <https://archive.is/MS4YS>

<sup>22</sup> <https://archive.is/iMnso>

<sup>23</sup> <https://archive.is/dglkz>

<sup>24</sup> <https://archive.is/jtP3g>

Image 14. Election Integrity Partnerships’s RiskIQ assessment of CRI<sup>25</sup>

**RISKIQ** civilrightsinternational.com

First Seen 2014-02-01 Registrar ENOM, INC. + Categorize  
 Last Seen 2020-10-08 Registrant N/A

### Whois Records

**CHANGE HISTORY**

Date	Changes
2020-01-20	[Icon]
2019-01-20	[Envelope] [Phone] [Icon]
2018-01-20	[Envelope] [Phone] [Icon]
2017-03-06	
2016-02-03	
2015-01-22	[Envelope] [Phone] [Icon]
2014-03-12	[Envelope] [Phone] [Icon]
2014-03-08	[Envelope] [Phone] [Icon] [Globe]

**Record Updated 2014-03-08 : Last Scanned 2014-03-10**  
 Checked by RiskIQ | Expired 6 years ago | Created 7 years ago | [Hide Diff](#) | [Hide Raw Record](#)

Attribute	Value
WHOIS Server	whois.enom.com
Registrar	ENOM, INC.
Email	SUPPORT@NETFRONTS.COM (tech) S [Redacted]@YAHOO.CO.UK (registrant, admin)
Name	[Redacted] (registrant, admin) DNS ADMIN (tech)
Organization	NETFRONTS, INC. (tech)
Street	[Redacted] (registrant, admin) [Redacted] (tech)

**plaintruthnow.org**  
 DNS information

Whois **DNS Records** Diagnostics

Image 15. Election Integrity Partnerships’s DNS record for PTN<sup>26</sup>

DNS Records for plaintruthnow.org

Hostname	Type	TTL	Priority	Content
plaintruthnow.org	SOA	21599		ns1.sacexpress.com s: [Redacted]@yahoo.co.uk 2020082401 3600 1800 1209600 86400
plaintruthnow.org	NS	21599		ns1.sacexpress.com
plaintruthnow.org	NS	21599		ns2.sacexpress.com

Image 16. Websites registered by the same individual

<sup>25</sup> <https://archive.vn/RIH6y>

<sup>26</sup> <https://archive.vn/RIH6y>



Domain	first seen	last seen
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">daddyhezekiah50.org</a>	2017-07-22	2018-03-31
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">daddyhezekiah.com</a>	2014-03-10	2018-03-20
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">hezekiahgoldenjubilee.org</a>	2017-07-22	2017-10-19
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">daddyhezekiahgoldenjubilee.org</a>	2017-07-22	2017-10-18
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">sacexpress.com</a>	2014-03-10	2017-10-06
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">daddyhezekiahgoldenjubilee.com</a>	2017-06-14	2017-09-10
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">daddyhezekiah50.com</a>	2017-06-14	2017-09-10
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">civilrightsinternational.com</a>	2014-03-10	2017-06-16
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">livingchristmission.com</a>	2014-03-03	2017-04-01

Image 17. The Individual's Role in the Church

Companies House

Companies House does not verify the accuracy of the information filed

[Sign in / Register](#)

## Samuel Amechi ANYAEGBU

**Filter appointments**

Current appointments

**Total number of appointments 1**

Date of birth  
**August 1978**

---

**[LIVING CHRIST MISSION \(03216647\)](#)**

<p>Company status <b>Active</b></p>	<p>Correspondence address <b>12 High Street, Gravesend, England, DA11 0WH</b></p>	
<p>Role <b>ACTIVE</b> <b>Director</b></p>	<p>Appointed on <b>20 September 2017</b></p>	
<p>Nationality <b>British</b></p>	<p>Country of residence <b>England</b></p>	<p>Occupation <b>Chairman</b></p>

**Social Media Interactions Between PTN, CRI, and LCM**

All three organizations follow one another on Twitter (which is especially significant because LCM only follows 11 people in total, see Appendix 7).<sup>27</sup> The accounts consistently like and retweet one another. Of Plain Truth Now’s 443 most recently posted tweets, over 120 tweets and retweets mention CRI and/or LCM, and of PTR’s 496 most recently liked tweets, 100 of them were posted by either CRI or LCM.<sup>28</sup> When the accounts are engaging with tweets that come from other accounts, the majority of the time, they are tweets from prominent US conservative figures such as Donald Trump, Trump family members, Rand Paul, Candace Owens, etc. The organizations also frequently mention one another on Facebook. Oftentimes, PTN will post their own original content followed by a link to a CRI article within the same post.<sup>29</sup> PTN also often posts original content in support of LCM.<sup>30</sup> Beyond their own engagement with one another, there is an additional network of accounts that engage with all three organizations (see Appendix 8 and 9).

The frequent engagement between the three similar accounts seems strange enough, but an odd claim also emerged from a Twitter user in reply to the Trump parade (see Appendix 10). Jake Okechukwu Effoduh (@effodu) claimed that LCM’s parade had been paid for by an NGO.<sup>31</sup> Effoduh did not specify which NGO paid for the parade, but it is possible that he was referring to CRI or PTN. CRI claims to be an NGO on their website,<sup>32</sup> and PTN claims to be an NGO on their Facebook page.<sup>33</sup> According to the United Nations, though, neither PTN nor CRI is an accredited NGO.<sup>34</sup> No evidence was provided by Effoduh to indicate which NGO he was referring to, despite numerous replies on his tweet asking him to clarify.

## Summary

It is undeniable that there are similarities and connections between PTN, CRI, and LCM. There appears to be a coordinated effort to spread information ranging from political information and misinformation to LCM propaganda. While Twitter users suspected inauthenticity of the real world parade, the actual authenticity issues lie in the digital world and in coordinated behavior between PTN, CRI, and LCM. This disinformation work contradicts LCM’s claim that “Daddy Hezekiah is indeed a transparent man; a man of unquestionable character.”<sup>35</sup>

Beyond his connections to PTN and CRI, there might be even more skeletons in Daddy Hezekiah’s closet. In a 2009 letter addressed to multiple prominent political figures in Nigeria, Sahara Reporters made many criminal accusations about Daddy Hezekiah and LCM. Allegations include claims that Daddy Hezekiah operates militant cult training camps where he trains young

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<sup>27</sup> <https://archive.is/WggGs>

<sup>28</sup> <https://archive.is/ae5Ab>

<sup>29</sup> <https://archive.is/fqpDE>

<sup>30</sup> <https://archive.is/FtqlC>

<sup>31</sup> <https://archive.vn/9iEXb>

<sup>32</sup> <https://archive.is/lJLFT>

<sup>33</sup> <https://archive.is/Wymbo>

<sup>34</sup> <https://archive.is/poSOE>

<sup>35</sup> <https://archive.is/Rz7CO>

boys to commit murder and destroy property and he recruits young girls to be trafficked for slave labor. The letter also alleges that he uses “church thugs” to harass and beat up those who oppose him, and that putting a stop to his crimes has been impossible due to his power and money and connections to local police stations. <sup>36</sup> If these allegations are true, they stand in contrast to the mission statement on LCM’s website where they claim to be “simply a big family that can accommodate the great and small, the rich and poor, the mighty and strong as well as the weak.”<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> <https://archive.is/df2tH>

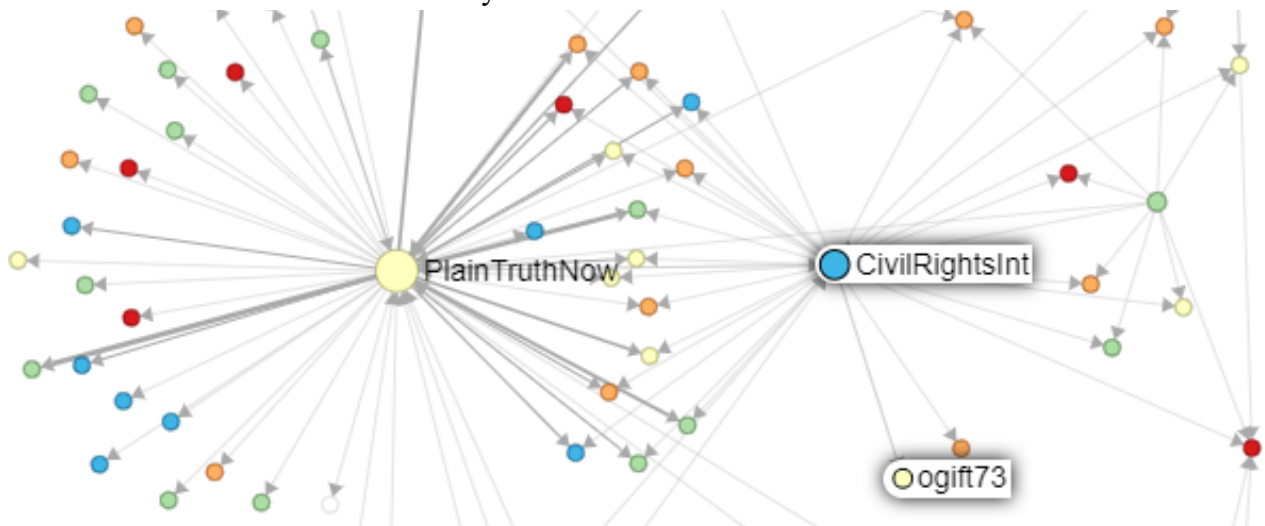
<sup>37</sup> <https://archive.is/xX5Oe>

## Appendix

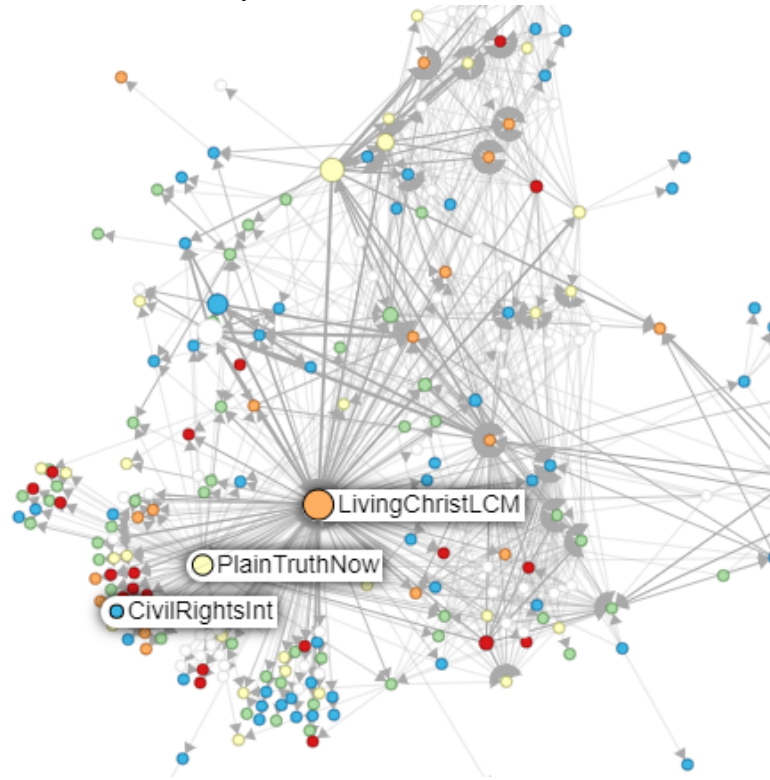
1. Abraham Adeyemi
  - a. Original Trump Parade Video <https://archive.is/fuK7y>
  - b. Facebook Account: <https://archive.is/ttCR1>
  - c. Twitter Account: <https://archive.is/kL9dG>
2. Plain Truth Now Website:
  - a. <https://archive.is/w7gqr>
3. Civil Rights International
  - a. <https://archive.vn/Q4jrf>
4. Living Christ Mission
  - a. <https://archive.vn/V7ndZ>
5. Information about the Nigerian Civil War and Biafra:
  - a. <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/civil-war-in-nigeria>
6. Election Integrity Partnership Article:
  - a. <https://archive.is/RIH6y>
7. Civil Rights International, Plain Truth Now, and Living Christ Mission Follow One Another

<a href="#">@livingchristcm</a>	follows	<a href="#">@plaintruthnow</a>
<a href="#">@plaintruthnow</a>	follows	<a href="#">@livingchristcm</a>
<a href="#">@livingchristcm</a>	follows	<a href="#">@civilrightsint</a>
<a href="#">@civilrightsint</a>	follows	<a href="#">@livingchristcm</a>
<a href="#">@civilrightsint</a>	follows	<a href="#">@plaintruthnow</a>
<a href="#">@plaintruthnow</a>	follows	<a href="#">@civilrightsint</a>

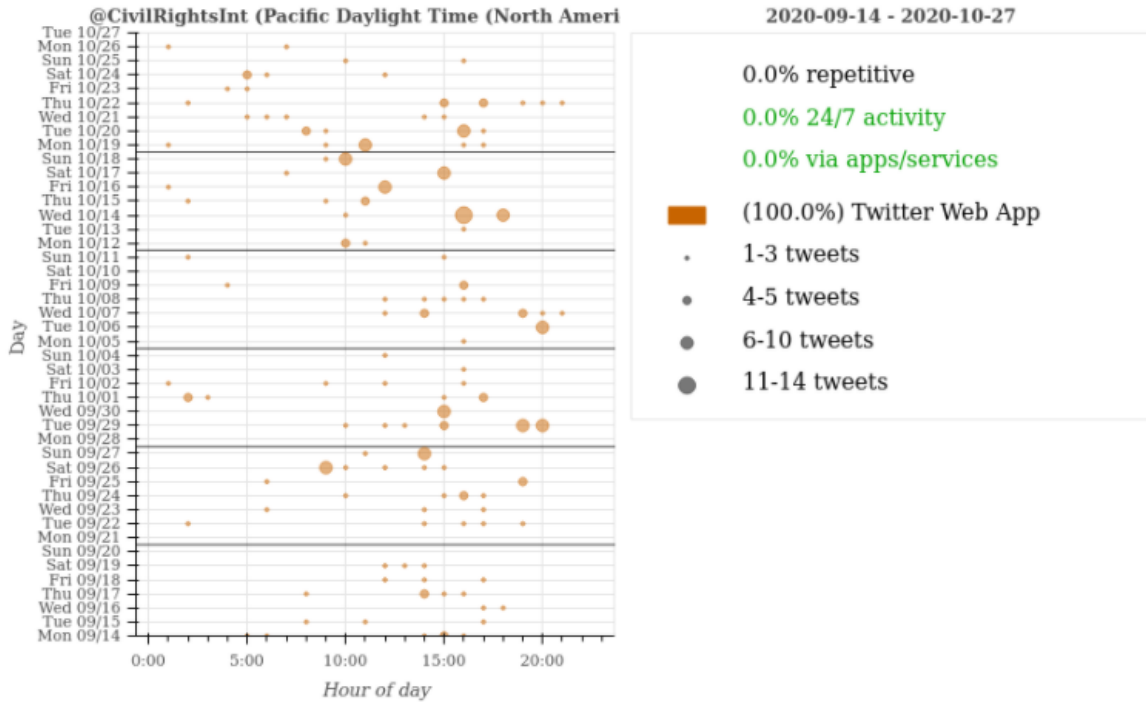
Links between CRI and PTN via Hoaxy



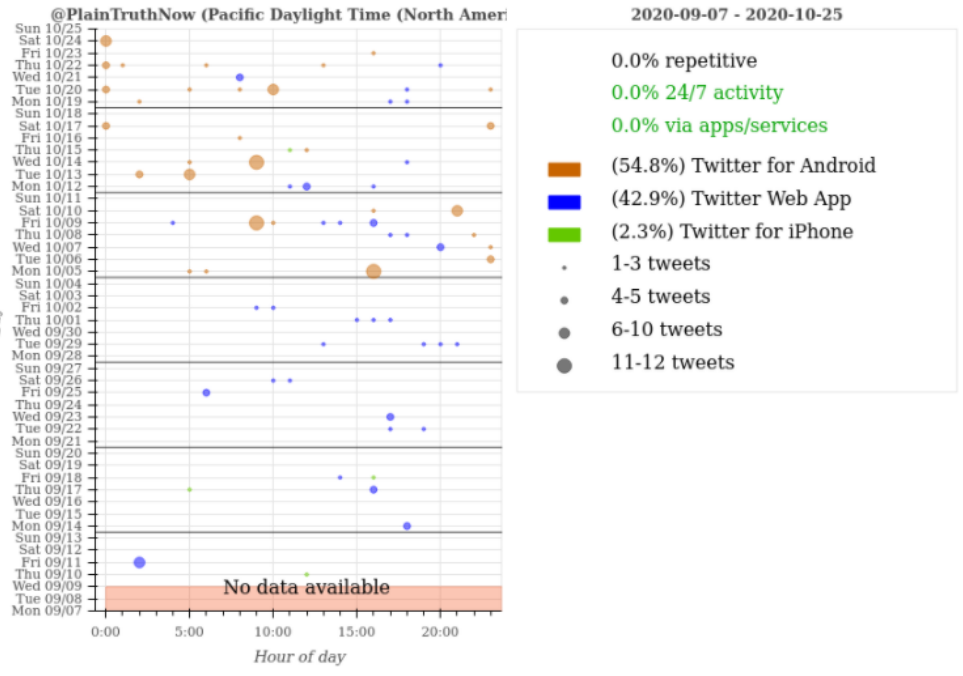
## Links between CRI, PTN, and LCM via Hoaxy



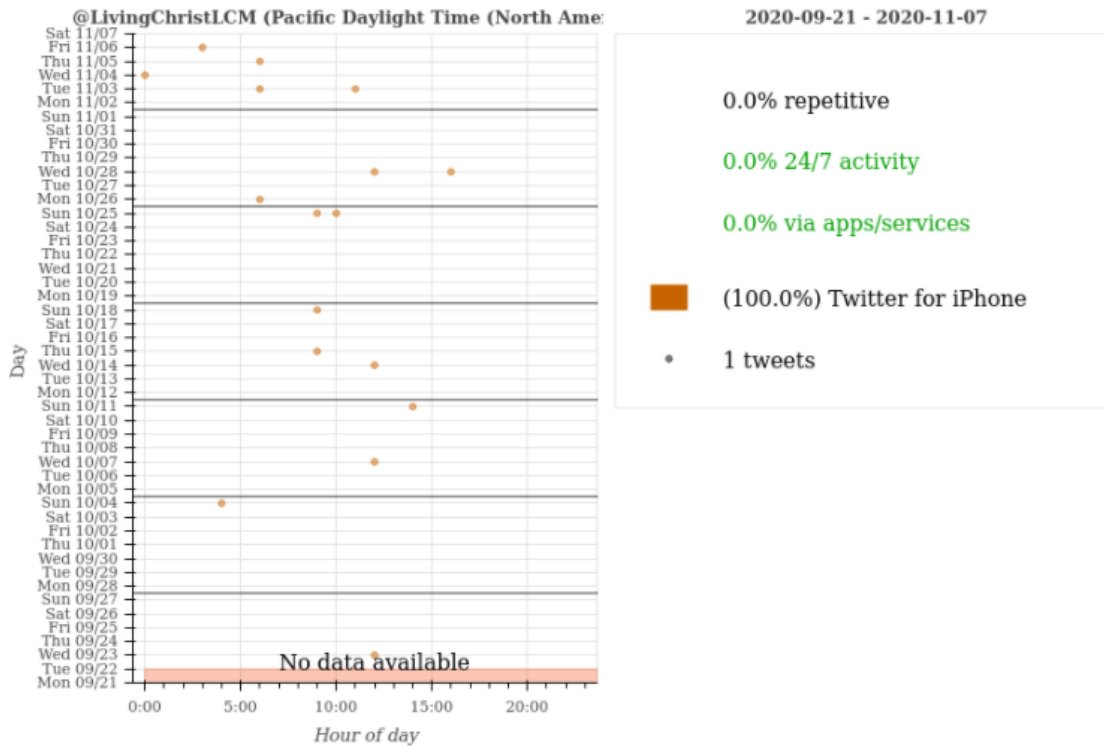
## CRI Tweet Posting Times



## PTN Tweet Posting Times



LCM Tweet Posting Times



8. Number of Followers in Common Between LCM, PTN, and CRI via TweetBeaver

@livingchristlcm and @plaintruthnow have 137 followers in common.

@livingchristlcm and @civilrightsint have 164 followers in common.

@civilrightsint and @plaintruthnow have 128 followers in common.

#### 9. Accounts Associated with the Network

<https://twitter.com/PlainTruth20>

<https://twitter.com/UbaObim>

<https://twitter.com/VICTORO18236453>

<https://twitter.com/JessyO4real>

<https://twitter.com/cihemes>

<https://twitter.com/OkoliJoshua5>

<https://twitter.com/lykehez2>

[https://twitter.com/ndy\\_uba](https://twitter.com/ndy_uba)

<https://twitter.com/Sammy39130977>

<https://twitter.com/ukohaikenna>

<https://twitter.com/lloydambition>

<https://twitter.com/Susan76880067>

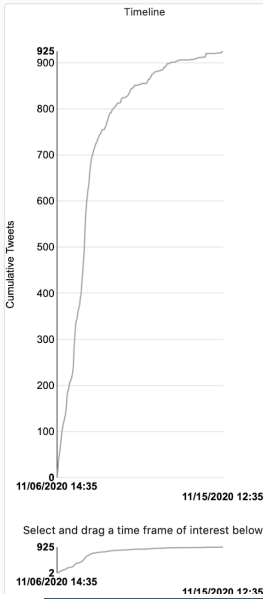
<https://twitter.com/ChiomaNwabuisi1>

<https://twitter.com/ChimezirimMadu3>

<https://twitter.com/Ogechi38496534>

<https://twitter.com/ConstanceA14>

#### 10. Jake Okechukwu Effoduh's tweet prominence in the web of networks via Hoaxy

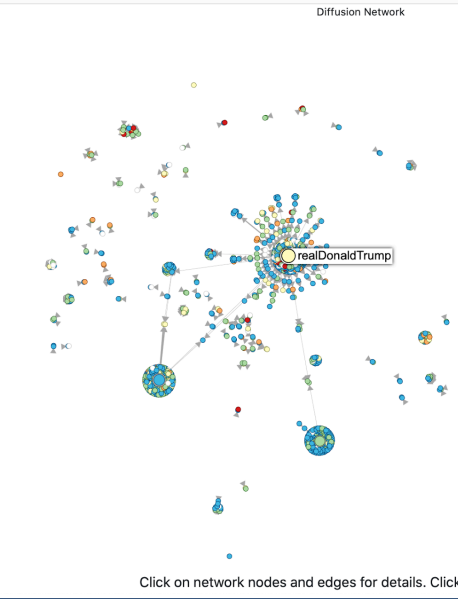


Layout controls: Full screen, Zoom in, Zoom out, Reset view.

Tweets controls: Play, Stop.

Share: Tweet, Share, Embed.

Export: CSV, JSON.



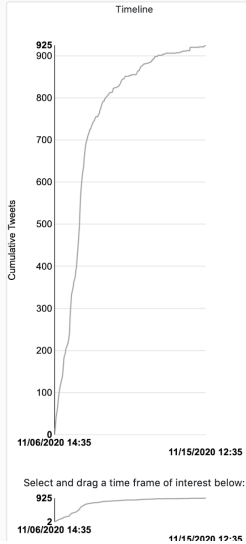
Update Bot Scores: 876 of 948 scores found. 51 are fresh.

Legend: Accounts (circle), Tweets (arrow).

Bot Like scale:

18
54
70
237
500
Human Like

Click on network nodes and edges for details. Click on color scale to filter nodes by color.

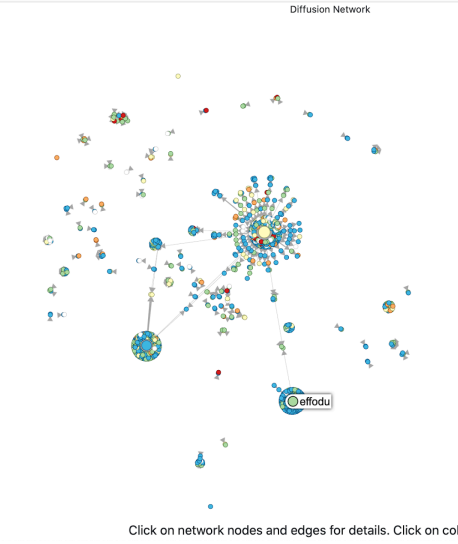


Layout controls: Full screen, Zoom in, Zoom out, Reset view.

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