

Biographical Statement of Mr. Nii Akuetteh
May 18, 2016

Nii Akuetteh serves currently as the founding executive director of AIC, the African Immigrant Caucus. For decades Nii has been a committed leader in varied initiatives that work to advance African development and to improve US interactions with Africa. He has practiced this leadership and activism while living in DC and in West Africa.

For example at the turn of the century, Ghana-born Nii went and lived in Nigeria (Lagos & Abuja) and contributed to the strengthening of democracy across West Africa. Specifically, Nii played the lead role in the creation of a still-thriving major and respected regional grant-making foundation which promotes and defends democracy by providing funds and technical assistance to civil society and to select government units.

Next Nii founded DCRI, the Democracy & Conflict Research Institute, an NGO that focused on winning converts to the credo that dictatorship and repression in Africa foster resistance which often morphs into violent conflict and even terrorism.

As a formative early career experience, Nii cut his democracy activism teeth in DC during the US Anti-Apartheid Movement in the 1980s which led to the 1986 Congressional law that imposed sanctions against apartheid South Africa—over the veto of President Reagan.

His work while based in Washington DC has also included Nii teaching at Georgetown University and serving as the editor of a quarterly journal on US relations with Africa and the Caribbean.

Nii remains a sought-after analyst and expert. He is regularly seen on TV outlets (including *The PBS Newshour; BBC; MSNBC; Al Jazeera; CBC; TRT; Press-TV; and CCTV*) explaining to global audiences breaking news that affect Africa and US policy. He also uses essays and opinion pieces to share his analyses.

Nii has testified twice before this Subcommittee and has also testified in the other chamber.

Ghana-born Nii received his tertiary education from two Ghanaian universities and an American one.