

Five killed as gunmen raid Kwara church, abduct worshippers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Federal Government has lost operational control over security in northern Nigeria, citing renewed terrorist attacks in Kwara and Kebbi States.

In a statement in Kaduna yesterday, he said the latest assaults, including the killing of two security operatives in Rogun Village, Kpada District of Patigi Local Council, showed that terrorists now operate "without fear of the state". He noted that attackers stormed a police outpost in Rogun on Sunday night, engaging officers in a prolonged gunfight before overrunning the facility.

He said the Patigi attack was particularly troubling because the Middle Belt corridor had long been viewed as relatively stable, arguing that the incident reflected "a total failure of intelligence and policing". According to him, rural communities are now under siege, schools are unsafe, and police posts have been turned into battlefields.

Olawepo-Hashim also referred to reports of a serving military general ambushed after terrorists allegedly intercepted his communication, saying the development showed insurgents had acquired "advanced capability and extraordinary daring". He questioned what hope re-

mained for villagers when police outposts could be attacked without consequence and schoolgirls abducted in Kebbi without immediate rescue.

He warned that effective state control was now largely confined to state capitals, while "vast rural territories have fallen under the shadow of armed groups", adding that many villagers were forced to pay taxes to terrorists.

MPAC warns Nigeria at 'dangerous crossroads', demands urgent action on insecurity

The Muslim Public Affairs Centre (MPAC) has raised alarm over what it calls a dangerous escalation of violence across the country, warning that Nigeria is "at a dangerous crossroads" and in urgent need of decisive government intervention.

In a statement issued yesterday by its Executive Chairman, Disu Kamor, the organisation said the past week had witnessed a troubling surge in deadly attacks, further highlighting the scale of the nation's security crisis. It listed five major incidents recorded within days, including the killing of a Brigadier-General by ISWAP insurgents in the North-East and the abduction of schoolgirls in Kebbi State, during

which a vice-principal was also killed while trying to protect them. MPAC also cited the attack on a Christ Apostolic Church in Eruku, Kwara State, where worshippers were murdered and several were abducted.

Other incidents mentioned were the killing of an APC chieftain and the kidnapping of his family, as well as attacks in Patigi, Kwara State, where terrorists killed a police officer, a vigilante and abducted two traditional rulers.

MPAC referenced earlier attacks in Zamfara State, including the 7 October abduction of 30 villagers from Zamfarawa in Bukkuyum Council and the 18 October kidnapping of 73 residents from Buzugu and Rayau communities. It noted that more than 145 people had been reported missing in recent days across the state.

The organisation said the frequency of attacks on schools, religious centres, communities and even senior military officers showed that criminal groups were becoming more brazen. "Each life lost represents a family shattered, a community destabilised, and a nation traumatised," it said. "Nigeria is failing in its most fundamental duty, the protection of life."

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