

After 4 Months In Captivity, Bandits Kill Kaduna Catholic Catechist, 5 Others



By **Nonye Ekwenugo** 6 Hours Ago in News

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The Catholic Archdiocese of Kaduna has confirmed the death of a catechist and five other abductees who were kidnapped during a terrorist attack on Kutaho and Kugir communities in Kagarko Local Government Area of Kaduna State nearly four months ago, despite efforts and ransom payments made to secure their freedom.

In a statement issued on Thursday by the Archdiocesan Chancellor, Rev. Fr. Christian Okewu Emmanuel, disclosed that while four of the remaining abductees

regained their freedom on 30 June, the Church received the devastating news that six of their fellow captives had died while in captivity.

The victims, who were abducted during the late-night attack on 9 February 2026, were identified as Catechist Victor Paul, Mr Joseph Yaro, Mr Monday Tanko, Mr Kunama Dogo, Mr Friday Agama and Mrs Peace Williams.

According to the statement, Catechist Victor Paul died as a result of severe torture, preventable illness and starvation, while the five others were brutally killed by their captors.

“The general public will recall that on 12 February 2026, this office stated the terrorist attacks on the communities of Kutaho and Kugir, which occurred during the late hours of 9 February 2026.

“During the attacks, Catechist Victor Paul, his heavily pregnant wife, their son, Shehima Victor, and several other persons were abducted”.

The Church recalled that 11 women and children, including the catechist’s wife, regained their freedom on 5 April 2026, while nine other male captives were released on 1 May 2026.

It added that the remaining four abductees eventually regained their freedom on 30 June, bringing an end to the four-month ordeal for the surviving victims.

“While we rejoice at their safe return, our hearts remain heavy with grief over the tragic loss of those who did not make it back alive”.

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The Archdiocese described the deaths as a painful reminder of the worsening insecurity confronting communities in Southern Kaduna and other parts of the country.

It, therefore, called on the Federal Government, Kaduna State Government and relevant security agencies to take urgent and decisive action to end the persistent attacks, kidnappings and killings in vulnerable communities.

“The recurring violence, kidnappings and senseless destruction of innocent lives in our communities have persisted for far too long and demand an immediate and effective response,” the statement added.

The Church also expressed its appreciation to the general public, the Christian community, and all people of goodwill for their prayers, solidarity, and support throughout the four-month ordeal.

“We continue to pray fervently for the eternal repose of the souls of our departed brothers and sisters and for God’s comfort and consolation upon their grieving families. May the peace of Christ prevail in our land”.