

Three killed, priest, 10 others abducted in fresh Kaduna attack



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Tragedy struck in Karku community, Kauru Local Government Area, Kaduna State again as gunmen killed three residents and kidnapped a Catholic priest and 10 others during a night raid yesterday.

The Catholic Archdiocese of Kafanchan confirmed the abduction of the parish priest of Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Karku, Rev. Fr. Nathaniel Asuwaye, who was seized alongside 10 villagers in the early hours of the day.

Security sources at the Kaduna State Police Command said operatives had launched a manhunt for the attackers, believed to be operating within the Kauru axis.

In a statement, the Diocesan Chancellor, Very Rev. Fr. Jacob Shanet, announced the incident with “profound sadness,” saying the priest and others were taken at about 3:20 am from the priest’s residence.

He described the attack as “an invasion by a group of terrorists,” adding that the incident left three people dead.



The deceased victims were identified as Mr. Jacob Dan’azumi, Mr. Maitala Kaura and Alhaji Kusari.

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Shanet called on priests, the Christian faithful and “men and women of goodwill” to pray for the safe return of the abducted and for the repose of the souls of those killed.

“The entire Diocese of Kafanchan entrusts them to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary for their speedy and safe release from the hands of these evildoers,” he added.

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Reacting to the development, Chairman of the Northern Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Rev. Joseph Hayab, described the incident as distressing and lamented the persistence of kidnappings in the region.

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“This is a sad story. The kidnapping is getting too much,” Hayab said.

“It is sad that the kidnapping of Christian priests and other citizens is unabated despite efforts to stop this evil.”

He urged security agencies to intensify efforts to stem the growing tide of abductions and killings.

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Attempts to reach the Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Mansir Hassan, were unsuccessful as his phone was switched off at the time of filing this report.

However, a police source disclosed that security personnel, including the military and armed police, engaged the attackers in a gun duel during the operation.

“We believe the bandits are still within the area. We are hopeful they will be apprehended,” the source said.