

## NEWS

## 3 killed, catholic priest, 10 others abducted in Kaduna community

Muhammad Sabiu, Kaduna

**T**HREE persons have been killed while a Catholic priest and 10 other residents were abducted following an early-morning attack on Karku community in Kauru Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

The Catholic Archdiocese of Kafanchan confirmed that the victims were taken in the early hours of Saturday when

suspected terrorists invaded the community.

In a statement issued by the Diocesan Chancellor, Very Rev Fr Jacob Shanet, the Church announced the abduction of Rev Fr Nathaniel Asuwaye, the Parish Priest of Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Karku. He said the priest was kidnapped alongside 10 other persons during the attack.

“Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, with profound sadness, we announce the kid-

napping of our priest, Rev Fr Nathaniel Asuwaye, the Parish Priest of Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Karku, Kauru LGA of Kaduna State, Nigeria,” Shanet stated.

According to him, the incident occurred at about 3:20 a.m. at the priest’s residence and was described by villagers as a violent invasion by a group of terrorists.

Shanet disclosed that the attack also resulted in the killing of three people identified as

Mr Jacob Dan’azumi, Mr Maitala Kaura, and Alhaji Kusari.

He called on priests, Christian faithful, and people of goodwill to pray for the abducted priest and the other victims, as well as for the repose of the souls of those killed during the attack.

“The entire Diocese of Kafanchan entrusts them to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of all priests and Help of Christians, for their speedy and safe re-

lease from the hands of these evildoers,” he added.

Reacting to the incident, the Chairman of the Northern Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Rev Joseph Hayab, described the killings and abduction as disturbing, saying insecurity and kidnapping had become overwhelming.

“This is a sad story. The kidnapping is getting too much,” Hayab said, lamenting that the abduction of Christian clergy and other citizens con-

tinued unabated despite efforts to curb the menace.

He said CAN remained hopeful and was praying with the Catholic Church and the affected parish, while also urging security agencies to take decisive measures to halt the growing incidents of kidnapping and killings.

As at the time of filing this report, the Kaduna State Police Command had yet to issue an official statement on the incident.

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