

Bandits attack Ekiti church, kill pastor, abduct worshippers

Yomi Ayeleso April 28, 2026



Panic swept through the Eda Oniyo community in the Ilejemeje Local Government Area of Ekiti State on Tuesday evening as gunmen suspected to be bandits attacked a religious gathering, killing a pastor and abducting several worshippers.

Tribune Online gathered that the incident happened during an open-air crusade organised by one of the churches in the community.

Residents said the gunmen stormed the worship ground, located on the outskirts of the town around 7pm while the programme was in progress, opening fire and causing chaos among congregants.

Eyewitness accounts indicated that the bandits, who were heavily armed, operated for several minutes before fleeing with an unspecified number of victims into a nearby forest.

A community leader, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, disclosed that the victims included elderly persons and children.

He said, "This evening, a few minutes to seven, gunmen invaded a church program at Eda Oniyo during a programme. They shot the pastor and into the congregation, abducting several worshippers, including the elderly and children, taking them into the forest.

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"They came in large numbers and were heavily armed, which has left residents in shock as families continue to search for their missing loved ones."

As of the time of filing this report, the exact number of abducted persons remained unclear.

When contacted, the chairman of Ilejemeje LGA, Pius Alaba, who confirmed the incident, said the exact number of those abducted could not be ascertained as of Tuesday night.

Alaba explained that reports from the pastor in charge of the church indicated that no fewer than 50 worshippers attended the programme, and that many of them managed to escape into the forest.

The LG boss added the remains of the slain pastor who was said to be from a neighboring state had been deposited at the morgue.

Possible efforts to obtain a reaction from the Ekiti State Police Command proved abortive, as calls and messages sent to the Police Public Relations Officer, SP Sunday Abutu, were not successful as of press time.