

# Edo seminarian dies in kidnappers' den, five others abducted

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| By Adeyinka Adedipe

One of the minor seminarians abducted since July in Edo State, Emmanuel Alabi, has died in the hands of the kidnappers, *PUNCH Metro* learnt on Wednesday.

The death of Alabi was announced in a press statement by the Assistant Director of Communications, Directorate of Social Communications, Catholic Diocese of Auchi, Rev. Fr. Linus Imoedemhe.

While mourning his death, the church expressed gratitude to God for the release of Joshua Aleobua.

He stated, "During that incident, three seminarians, Japhet Jesse, Joshua Aleobua, and Emmanuel Alabi, were abducted.

"We are grateful to God for the safe release of Japhet Jesse much earlier and, most recently, Joshua Aleobua, who regained his freedom on November 4, 2025. However, with deep sorrow, we announce the passing of seminarian Emmanuel Alabi, who lost his life in the course of the ordeal.

"The Bishop of the Diocese of Auchi, Most Rev. Gabriel G. Dunia, has expressed his deep pain and sorrow over the loss of the young seminarian and has called on security agencies to intensify efforts towards protecting the lives and property of all citizens.

“He also cautioned political leaders against turning a blind eye to the worsening security situation in the nation, urging them instead to prioritise the safety and well-being of the people over political ambitions ahead of the 2027 elections.”

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The Catholic Diocese of Auchi invited all the faithful and people of goodwill to join it in praying for the repose of the soul of Emmanuel Alabi, and for the peace, healing, and security of our people and land.

PUNCH Metro recalls that the seminarians were abducted on July 10, 2025, when armed men attacked the Immaculate Conception Minor Seminary in Ivianokpodi.

However, a resident, who pleaded anonymity, told our correspondent that the news had thrown the Ivianokpodi Community in Etsako East Local Government Area into mourning.

He also said that five people (three male and two female) from the same community were kidnapped on their way to their farms last Saturday, and the abductors are demanding N50 million ransom.

The resident said, “The community is in mourning as we speak, and five people have been kidnapped as they were going to their farms on Saturday.

“One of them is my neighbour, and as of today, the abductors are asking for N50m.”

When contacted on Wednesday, the state deputy police spokesperson, Eno Ikoedem’s telephone did not connect. Even the SMS sent to her had not been replied to as of the time of filing this report.

