

Pope, Northern CAN condemn Kwara massacre, one killed in fresh attack



Pope Leo XIV

By Demola Akinyemi & Ibrahim Hassan-Wuyo

VATICAN CITY / KANO/ILORIN—Pope Leo XIV and the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), have expressed deep sorrow over the recent attacks on communities in Kwara State, which left more than 75 people dead and many others injured.

In a post on X, Pope Leo XIV conveyed his “prayerful closeness” to all victims of violence and terrorism, urging authorities to continue their efforts to ensure the safety and protection of every citizen. “It is with sorrow and concern that I learned of the recent attacks against various communities in Nigeria leading to a heavy loss of life,” the pontiff said.

Meanwhile, Northern CAN, representing the 19 Northern states and the Federal Capital Territory, extended condolences to the families of the victims and solidarity to the state government, its people, and the Muslim community affected by the tragedy.

In a statement, Northern CAN Chairman Rev. Joseph John Hayab described the attack in Kaiama Local Government Area as brutal and inhumane. He commended President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and security agencies for their swift response, particularly the deployment of an Army battalion under Operation Savannah Shield, and urged authorities to intensify security measures to prevent further loss of lives.

While the nation reels from the Woro community massacre, another attack occurred on Sunday in Koro community, Ekiti Local Government Area. About 15 heavily armed bandits invaded the community, firing sporadically and forcing residents to flee.

Forest Guards and local hunters intercepted the attackers near a secondary school, leading to a gunfight in which one Forest Guard, Samuel, was killed. His body was taken to Egbe Hospital mortuary in nearby Kogi State. The bandits reportedly retreated into the forest, and no arrests were made.

The Pope’s remarks, alongside the strong condemnation from Northern CAN, highlight growing concern over security challenges in Nigeria and reinforce calls for proactive measures to protect vulnerable communities.