

Terrorists kill 3, abduct 15 worshippers during church vigil in Kwara

By Demola Akinyemi

ILORIN: Terrorists on Saturday night killed three persons and abducted 15 worshippers during a church vigil at Ori-Oke Ajaiye, on the outskirts of Ikiran village in Ekiti Local Government Area of Kwara State.

Vanguard reliably gathered that the attack occurred at about 8:30 p.m. while the worshippers were observing a night vigil, throwing the surrounding communities into panic.

Sources in the area disclosed that the armed assailants stormed the community in large numbers, attacking worshippers and residents before fleeing through nearby forest routes.

A resident, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said many villagers spent the night searching for missing relatives and loved ones after the attackers escaped.

"People were running in different directions because of the gunshots. Some families could not find their relatives until this morning," he said.

Confirming the incident on Sunday, the spokesperson of the Kwara State Police Command, SP Adetoun Ejire-Adeyemi, strongly condemned the attack, describing it as gruesome and barbaric.

According to the police spokesperson, the incident was reported by Pastor Adebayo Abiodun of Ijo Ajaiye Ati Igbala, Ekerin Village, Ekiti LGA.

She stated that while the

pastor and members of his congregation were conducting a night vigil at Ori-Oke Ajaiye via Ekerin village on May 23, 2026, at about 8:30 p.m., armed hoodlums invaded the prayer ground, fired sporadically, killed three persons and abducted 15 others to an unknown destination.

"Upon receipt of the distress report, the Divisional Police Officer, Ekiti Division,

immediately mobilised operatives to the scene," the statement added.

The Commissioner of Police, Ojo Adekimi, has directed a comprehensive tactical and intelligence-driven operation involving the Police Drone Team, PMF personnel, intelligence units and other operational assets to ensure the rescue of the abducted victims and arrest of the perpetrators.

The commissioner described the attack as callous, unacceptable and inhumane, assuring families of the victims that the command remained committed to rescuing those abducted and bringing the assailants to justice.

The command also assured residents of Ekiti LGA and the state at large that intensive bush-combing, intelligence gathering and coordinated security operations were ongoing to track down the criminals.

Why we raped, killed Imo student nurse — SUSPECTS

By Chidi Nkwopara & Emmanuel Iheaka

TWO suspects arrested in connection with the rape and murder of a 21-year-old student nurse, Miss Wendy Achumba, in Obowo Local Government Area of Imo State, have allegedly confessed to committing the crime to stop the victim from exposing them.

The suspects, identified as Onyema Okonkwo, a vulcaniser, and Emmanuel Onyekachi, were arrested following a coordinated manhunt by security operatives and youths of Umulogho community after the incident triggered outrage in the area.

A viral video seen online allegedly captured one of the suspects narrating how they took turns raping the victim



• One of the arrested suspects.

before killing her.

Sources told Vanguard that the suspects admitted attacking the victim after she recognised them. They allegedly struck her on the head with a stick and later

slit her throat in an attempt to conceal their identities and escape arrest.

Residents said the attackers carefully planned the operation, taking advantage of the fact that the victim was alone in the house at the time.

According to a villager, the owner of the house resides abroad, while three student nurses occupied the apartment.

"Two of the girls had travelled for their nursing practicals, leaving Wendy alone in the compound," the source said.

"The suspects carefully executed the crime without attracting attention. It is a barbaric act, and those responsible must face justice."

Confirming the arrest, the spokesperson for the Imo State Police Command, Henry Okoye, said the suspects were

Police bust N7.8bn drug syndicate, reelect