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**Tue, February 24,
2009**

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Countryman



Bauchi crisis: **Christian leaders call for state of emergency**

JOHN SHIKLAM *and* SELYA YARNAP, *Bauchi*

THE Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) in the 19 northern states and Abuja yesterday called for the declaration of a state of emergency in Bauchi State following recent outbreak of fresh violence.

Also, Bauchi State Governor Mallam Isa Yuguda Monday reviewed the curfew imposed on Bauchi, the state capital by one hour. The curfew now holds between 5 p.m and 7 a.m as against 6 p.m to 7 a.m.

It would be recalled that 11 people were confirmed dead by the police in the crisis that rocked parts of Bauchi last weekend.

Reacting to the incident in a telephone interview with Daily Champion Monday secretary of Northern CAN, Elder Saidu Dogo said that the security of Christians in Bauchi can no longer be guaranteed and urge the Federal Government to as a matter of urgency impose an emergency rule in the interest of peace and stability in the country.

It body also condemned the non-challant attitude of the Bauchi Sate government towards the over 5,000 displaced victims of the religious crisis which started on Friday.

"We are watching to see the action of the Federal Government regarding the carnage and destruction unleashed on helpless and defenceless Christians whose properties were looted and their houses set ablaze by mindless Islamic fundamentalists.

"It is time for us to know whether President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua is the President of Nigerians or the President of Muslims, the action he will take regarding the Bauchi mayhem will determine whether he is a President of all of us.

" It is regrettable that while Christians are barely managing to recover from the attack on them by armed Islamic militants imported to Jos in November last year, they have launched another war in Bauchi. This nonsense most stop if we must remain as an entity in this country" Elder Dogo stated.

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