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Bauchi: Gunmen kill pastor, one other in Toro

Published on 22 May 2011 with 0 comments
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By SELYA YARNAP, Bauchi

A pastor and one person were confirmed dead in Jaruma village in Toro Local Government Area of Bauchi State following an attack on the village by gunmen.

According to investigations, the victims, Pastor Irmiya Maigida, 55, an indigene of Bogor Local Government Area and his neighbour, Joshua, were killed in their house in the dead of night of Monday as they slept with members of their families, it was gathered.

Speaking to the wife of the pastor, at her hospital bed at Female Ward 4 of the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Teaching Hospital, (ATBUTH) Keziya Iri-miya, aged 48, who narrowly escaped being killed, she said she was sleeping with her husband when she heard gunshots at about 2 am on that fateful day and that the gunmen entered Joshua's house and shot him dead before coming to their house.

According to her, "I was at home sleeping when I heard the gun shots. I came out of my room and felt a bullet in my hand."

Keziya narrated that she had gunshots on her left hand and deep machete cuts on her back and legs, and that four unknown men seized her and dragged her to the bush, inflicting several machete cuts on her and covered her with leaves before leaving.

The pastor's wife who recalled that they were rubbing some strange substances on her cuts as they stabbed her with knives and she passed out, before regaining consciousness. According to her, she saw her husband screaming in pains.

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In his own account, the late pastor's son, Ishaya Irmiya, said he received a call from his sister that their father had been shot, adding that he immediately called his sister in Bauchi to go to Toro.

"We got to Jaruma and met our father alive, but in great pains. My father and my mother were rushed to the hospital in Bauchi but my father died on the way because the police delayed them in Toro asking for statement and before they could settle everything and allow them to pass, my father had died on the way. He would have survived if the police had not caused delay", he said.

The pastor was buried, yesterday, at the Christian Cemetery in Yelwa amidst wailing by members of his families, congregation and sympathizers.



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