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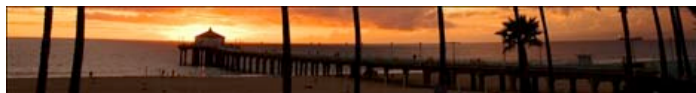
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DAILY TRUST

Nigeria: Pastor, Wife Found Dead

16 April 2010

The bodies of the resident pastor of the Church of Christ in Nigeria (COCIN) of Boto in Tafawa Balewa Local Government Area of Bauchi State, Reverend Ishaya G. Kadah and his wife, Selina Ishaya Kadah, were found yesterday, two days after they were declared missing.

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The development has raised tension in the area which is home to hundreds of internally displaced persons from the crises in Jos and environs.



A resident of the area said the bodies were found burnt and deposited in a nearby bush by people who had been searching for them since Tuesday when they were declared missing.

He said tension began in the village Monday upon rumours that there was going to be an attack on some people. 'The next day the pastor and his wife were found to be missing from their home and church. When we started looking for them, a boy in the area told us that he saw some men dragging the pastor and his wife', he said.

The state Commissioner of Police Danlami Yar'adua said his command received the information Tuesday that a pastor and his wife were missing and he immediately sent his men who later discovered the corpses Wednesday evening.

He said the command had already arrested two suspects in connection with the killings while four other persons also believed to have a hand in the killings were at large and that investigations were going on, assuring that the command would not rest until it arrests them.

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"Some hoodlums from Boto went to a village and stole some goats, the owner of the goats pursued them, and along the line they shot one of them on the leg with an arrow and eventually they were able to recover their goats and went back to their village. But a boy who hailed from the refugee camp in the area now came back to the village and raised a false alarm that they were being attacked by some people, and the people believed the story was true and this cause a little pandemonium, then after everything settled down, we got a report that the Pastor and his wife were missing", he said.

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The Special Assistant to the state governor on Media, Sanusi Muhammad, who spoke to our correspondent on phone, said government considered the incident unfortunate and would do everything to contain it.

The state government had last month said in a press statement signed by the Secretary to the State government, Ahmed Ibrahim Dandija, that it had information that members of the COCIN Church in Tafawa Balewa were plotting to destabilize the state, an allegation the COCIN Tafawa Balewa chapter denied at a press conference it later held in Bauchi.

Our correspondent gathered at the time of writing his report that a meeting was being held in the office of the state Deputy Governor Babayo Garba Gamawa to tackle the matter before it gets out of hand as the state governor, Malam Isa

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