

Terrorists kill ECWA pastor, three others, kidnap eight in Kaduna

① From **Saxone Akhalne**, Kaduna

TRAGEDY struck again, yesterday, in Southern Kaduna, as terrorists invaded Kajuru communities, killing a pastor of Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA) and four other persons. They also kidnapped no fewer than eight persons.

The Southern Kaduna Peoples Union (SOKAPU) has condemned the latest attack, saying it is unfortunate that the troubled communities are continuously under siege, while the federal and state governments watch without showing concern.

The kidnappers reportedly shot and killed three persons in Tudun Ibru before moving to Doka, where they killed one and abducted eight.

Catholic priest regains freedom from abductors

The pastor of ECWA in Tudun Ibru, Rev. Adamu Buba, was among those that were killed. Villagers, who were running for dear lives, found his lifeless body.

Condemning the attack, SOKAPU President, Jonathan Asake, said: "It is unfortunate that the invading terrorists killed a pastor of ECWA and others during the invasion. They had taken the pastor away and his body was later found.

"So far, early this (Tuesday) morning about four bodies were picked, while about eight persons were taken away in Tudun Ibru and Doka by the terrorists."

Asake has also criticised those attributing the cur-

rent invasion and attack on Southern Kaduna communities as a retaliation of Zangon Kataf crisis, describing the latest killings in Southern Kaduna as a genocidal mission by the Fulani militias.

Police Public Relations Officer in the state, DSP Mohammed Jalige, was not available for comments on the attack.

MEANWHILE, Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Silas, who was abducted in Kaduna on Monday morning, has regained his freedom.

According to a statement signed by the Chancellor, Catholic Diocese of Kafanchan, Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Okolo, the priest

was freed about 9:00p.m. on Monday.

Prior to his abduction, the cleric was serving at St. Charles Catholic Church, Kauru.

Okolo said: "With heart full of joy, we raise our voices in symphony of praises as we announce the return of our brother, Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Silas, who was abducted by armed persons from the rectory at St. Charles Catholic Church, Zambina, at the early hours of Monday, July 4, 2022.

"Barely 24 hours after his abduction, Fr. Silas was released around 09:00p.m."

He directed all priests to celebrate Mass with thanksgiving to God yesterday for the quick release of Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Silas.