

ment has made a budget had been repaired.

The NNPC has carried out

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# Boko Haram kills 15 as CAN rejects dialogue

■We'll defeat insurgents, says Jonathan ■JTF kills four 'terrorists'

THE Boko Haram sect ended the year on a deadly note at the weekend, with the killing of 15 people in a Borno State village.

But Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) President Ayo Oritsejafor has ruled out dialogue with the sect, which President Goodluck Jonathan promised to defeat. Gunmen believed to be

From Gbenga Omokhunu, Abuja and Uja Emmanuel, Makurdi

Boko Haram men at the weekend attacked Musari village in Borno State, tying up men, women and children before slitting their throats and killing no fewer than 15 people.

The gunmen shouted "Allahu Akbar" as they ordered people to gather up into a group, said Mshelia Inusa, a primary school teacher in the

village.

Later, Inusa and others saw bodies with their hands tied behind their backs and their throats cut.

Later Friday morning, an ambulance arrived at the State Specialists Hospital in Maiduguri, accompanied by a group of military vehicles, a security guard said. Agitated soldiers ordered people away, but the guard said he counted at least

15 bodies being brought into the facility's morgue.

Joint Task Force (JTF) spokesman Lt.-Col. Sagir Musa said five people were killed.

Christians have rejected the proposal of dialogue between the government and the Boko Haram fundamentalists.

To the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), there should be no dialogue with

the sect.

Pastor Oritsejafor said the government must battle the sect to submission because it is "wicked".

Pastor Oritsejafor, in a statement yesterday, condemned Senator Bukar Abba Ibrahim for his comments last week that the Federal Government must dialogue with Boko Haram as the only way to stop the killings and insecurity.

The cleric said Ibrahim's insistence that the reasons for the sect's actions are inequality, neglect and injustice should be probed and that the Senator should be held responsible for the activities of the Boko Haram sect.

Pastor Oritsejafor advised the government to deal with the sect instead of listening

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# Boko Haram kills 15 as CAN rejects talks with sect

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## We shall defeat Boko Haram, says Jonathan

to the Senator. He said the Boko Haram sect should be made to pay for all its misdeeds against Christians over the years.

Pastor Oritsejafor vowed not to accept any dialogue with Boko Haram that will not involve compensating families of Christians killed and churches bombed by the "wicked" sect.

He said elders in the North, especially those in the Northeast zone, hold the key to the cessation of violence in the region and "should begin to discuss how to end the unprovoked attacks on Christians and their churches".

Boko Haram (western education is a sin) has claimed responsibility for killings and terrorist attacks on churches and public institutions.

In a statement in Abuja by his Special Assistant, Mr. Kenny Ashaka, the CAN President said: "Pastor Oritsejafor believes that the statement by the senator that 'we can find a way really to help dialogue with this group; after all, they are all Nigerians, at least as far as we know...', is overly reckless, irresponsible and insensitive, just

**P**RESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan is confident that Boko Haram insurgency will be defeated.

"With your prayers, we shall defeat them," he said yesterday during a service at the *Ekkliyyat Yaruwa a Nigeria* (EYN) (Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) in Utako, Abuja.

Dr. Jonathan was worshipping at the church, which is the worst-hit by the Boko Haram insurgency. No fewer than 109 of its members have been killed by the sect; while 50 branches of the church, which is predominately in the Northeast, have been burnt down.

The Northeast states of Yobe and Borno and, to a large extent, Adamawa are the epicentre of the sect's activities.

Dr. Jonathan re-assured Nigerians as it is a panacea for encouraging the increasingly violent and daring sect.

"In the first place, he says, it is naïve for Senator Ibrahim to reason that if the Federal Government dialogued with Boko Haram, the sect would limit itself to concessions made when they have stated, clearly, that their aim is to do away with western education and en-

throne the Islamic law of Sharia'ah. The President of CAN advises Ibrahim not to panic into making recommendations that are short-sighted and that as a senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, he should not take counsel from only a section of a state or region.

He noted that adequate measures had been put in place to contain the menace of the Boko Haram sect.

The President said the security plans put in place were already yielding positive results.

He said the strategic security arrangement aborted the plans by the group to launch an attack on Christmas Day.

He said: "The Boko Haram planned to carry out a lot of attacks on Christmas Day, but we suppressed their plans during the Christmas. The extent of their plans was not executed because of the strategies put in place by the security agencies."

"Although we still recorded some inci-

dents, but the extent of attacks which they planned could not be executed.

He expects Senator Ibrahim to help put the sect in strict sub-

jection to the laws of the land, rather than treading the dangerous path of dialogue, which has always been truncated by harsh conditions from the sect members. According to him, Senator Ibrahim must bear a heavy responsibility for the spiralling violence of Boko Haram against Christians in Yobe State if he now speaks of inequality, neglect and injustice, which are

dents, but the extent of attacks which they planned could not be executed.

"Boko Haram will not push us backwards. If their plan is to stop government from providing the dividend of democracy, they would not succeed because 2013 will be a good year for Nigerians and Nigeria."

The President also expressed surprise over how terrorism and suicide bombings, which were alien to the culture of any section of the country, had crept in, noting that Christianity and Islam are religions of peace and tolerance which forbid killings and blood-letting.

He also thanked the authorities and members of the EYN nationwide for keeping the faith and remaining calm

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direct consequences of the neglect of the people by those who govern them, himself a two-time governor of Yobe State inclusive.

"If, today, the people are fighting biting poverty, inequality and injustice as Senator Ibrahim would want us to believe, it is his likes that should be held responsible for being the sources of their pov-