



Bandits: 121 Bethel Baptist School pupils in our custody

July 7, 2021 in [Featured](#), [News](#), [News Update](#)

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By AbdulGafar Alabelewe, Kaduna and Gbenga Omokhunu, Abuja

- ***Two security operatives killed in attack***
- ***Security operatives overwhelmed, says CAN***

Abductors of the pupils of Bethel Baptist High School in Kaduna have contacted the school and confirmed having 121 of them in their custody.

President of Kaduna Baptist Conference and proprietor of the school, Rev. Yahaya Adamu Jangado, announced this while addressing reporters on Tuesday after a meeting of the management and parents of the abducted students in Kaduna.

He said: “They came and, already, the bandits were going away with a number of our students and there was an exchange of fire between the soldiers and the bandits. In the process, we lost two of the security operatives.

“For now, we know that we have 154 students in the school hostel, as at yesterday (Monday), after the exchange of fire between the soldiers and the bandits. We came to the school and recovered 28 students; some of them hid in many places. In the course of taking them away, some students escaped and came back to the school.

“So, the total number of students we recovered on Monday was 28. Today (Tuesday), by the grace of God, we had a call from the bandits and they assured us that our children are well and doing okay. In fact, we had the privilege of speaking with a few of them.

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“They counted themselves in the jungle and they gave us information that they are 121. When we put the number together with what we have recovered, we discovered that the number is exactly the same with the number of students we had in the hostel.”

On ransom demand, he said: “They (bandits) called us to say that our children are there with them and that they were doing well. They were sound. We spoke with a few of them. That is the information for now.

“We called the parents here to appreciate them for their patience, understanding and calmness and also solicit their support in this trying moment. We assure them that as management we will do anything possible to bring back their children,” he said.

The Kaduna State Government has condoled with the families of two Nigerian Army and Navy personnel who were killed on Monday while attempting to prevent the abduction of pupils of Bethel Baptist High School in Kaduna.

Commissioner of Internal Security and Home Affairs, Samuel Aruwan, announced this in a statement in Kaduna.

He said: “The two personnel – Private Salisu Rabiou and Ordinary Seaman Bilal Mohammed – lost their lives while engaging the bandits who attacked the school and kidnapped an unspecified number of students in the early hours of Monday, July 5, 2021”.

El-Rufai described the duo as heroes and offered financial assistance to their immediate families.

Aruwan represented El-Rufai at the funeral of Ordinary Seaman Mohammed at Ungwan Kanawa cemetery in Kaduna North Local Government Area.

Prayers were offered for Private Rabiou at the 44 Nigerian Army Reference Hospital’s mortuary before his remains were taken to Daura, Katsina State, for interment.

Also, the leadership of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) yesterday acknowledged that the nation’s security operatives were overwhelmed in handling the worsening insecurity in the land.

Reacting to the abduction of the Kaduna school pupils in a statement, CAN President, Rev. Samson Ayokunle, expressed shock and condemned the act.

The CAN president advised President Muhammadu Buhari to seek foreign assistance before it is too late.

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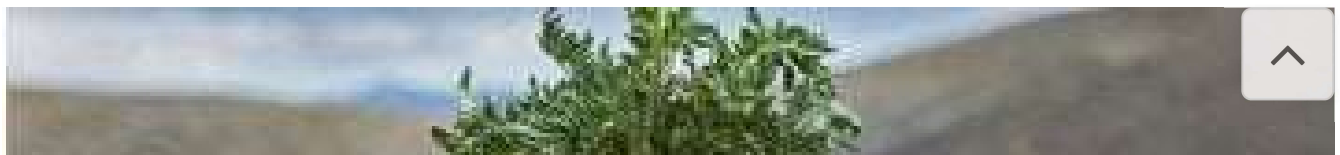
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