



Islamic scholar assassinated in Gombe

A PROMINENT Islamic scholar, Sheik Ibrahim Musa Albani Kuri, was yesterday murdered by suspected assassins in Gombe State.

Family sources said four men armed with machetes and covering their faces attacked the scholar at his residence at Tabra along the Bypass area in Gombe around 3 00 am.

Gombe State Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, ASP Mahid Mua'zu Abubakar who confirmed the incident to *The Nation*, described it as unfortunate.

According to Mu'azu, the report on the incident got to the police very late, adding that the Commissioner of Police, Oqua Etim, had directed an investigation into the murder.

"A family member told the police that the killers came into the house around 3.00am. They started threatening and asking him to give them money. They covered their faces with masks.

"The family said he told them he has no money and was trying to identify their faces, it was in the process that he was attacked with machetes and one of them stabbed him in the chest.

"The Commissioner of Police has directed thorough investigation into the matter to see if we can apprehend any of the perpetrators," he said.

•Curfew declared

From Sola Shittu, Gombe

Condemning the scholar's murder, Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, said it was appalling.

Inuwa who attended the funeral prayer of the deceased cleric at the Bolari Izala Mosque in Gombe said the incident shook the sense of security and prevailing peace Gombe State had enjoyed.

"We want to reassure the citizens of Gombe State that the government remains resolute in its efforts to uphold the safety of lives and security of its people.

"We will continue to take comprehensive measures and apply the superiority of our force to clear and flush out criminals in any part of the state, as well as bring those responsible for this heinous crime to justice to prevent such incidents from reoccurring.

"The memory of Sheikh Ibrahim Albani Kuri will serve as a reminder that we must remain vigilant and steadfast in our pursuit of a society where everyone can live in peace and without fear," he said.

He urged the people to continue to

unite in solidarity and always uphold the values of empathy and unity that religious leaders tirelessly promoted.

Inuwa said the late Sheikh Ibrahim was a fountain of knowledge, understanding and unity whose teachings transcended boundaries and brought people together.

He added that his loss would be deeply felt by all and his legacy would forever inspire the people.

Meanwhile, the police in the state commenced enforcement of movement restriction from 12 midnight to 6am to maintain law and order, ensure public safety and curb the rising cases of criminal activities.

Mua'zu in a statement late yesterday said the state government declared the restriction on movement following the cleric's murder to ensure that perpetrators of illegal activities in the state were brought to justice.

"As such, all residents are advised to cooperate with us and other security agencies and avoid unnecessary movements within the stipulated hours except those on essential services," he said.

He said the police command would work in collaboration with other security agencies to ensure strict compliance with this directive.

"The public is urged to support this effort by reporting any suspicious individual or group seen moving within the restricted hours to the nearest security agency," he said.