

# Pastor shot dead during church service as cult members kill six in Lagos

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Patele area of Mile12.

**A**BOUT six persons, including an assistant pastor, who was shot dead during a Sunday church service, have been killed by suspected cult members in Mile 12 area of Lagos State in the last one week.

The deceased pastor, Bola Ibrahim, was last Sunday killed when gunmen, suspected to be cultists, invaded the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), King of Kings Parish at Maidon,

The family of the deceased pastor, however, claimed they suspected he might have been killed by assassins.

An eyewitness said the gunmen invaded the church at about 11:30 a.m. while service was in progress and attacked their target, leaving members of the church to run in different directions.

**Nigerian Tribune** gathered that the deceased was coordinating the dedication of new babies in the church when the attackers entered the church.

The assailants reportedly went straight to the altar and dragged the pastor away when a senior pastor intervened.

The unidentified senior pastor was reportedly shoved away with the butt of a gun by the assailants.

A resident of Maidon Orile who spoke to **Nigerian Tribune** on condition of anonymity said: "I suspect that he was killed by cultists who have been on the rampage in the area in the last two weeks.

"Most people believe cultists perpetrated the killing

of the pastor because about seven persons have been killed in the last one week by cult members."

Another resident who simply identified herself as Elizabeth, said: "Just last Tuesday, three suspected cult members were killed and their bodies dumped under the Mile 12 bridge with another person killed two days after on Thursday."

She also added that "between Thursday and Tuesday, another person was killed at the same Underbridge, while the pastor was killed on Sun-

day and another two persons were killed on Monday in the same Mile 12 area."

An aunt to the deceased pastor, Justina Alebiosu, described the killing as "a clear case of assassination," just as she added that the killers reportedly came to the church with his picture.

"His death is unfortunate. We have lost a gentleman; I was told that when the assailants wanted to drag him out from the pulpit where he was praying for women who brought their children for dedication, he begged them

to kill him there and that was where he was eventually killed."

She lamented that: "We still have an aged mother, and his wife just gave birth. His children are still young."

She, therefore, appealed to the Commissioner of Police in the state, Hakeem Odumosu, to release the body of the pastor to the family for burial.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in the state, Muyiwa Adejobi, said he was yet to be briefed on the incident.