

# Gunmen attack church, kill two

Segun Olatunji, Kaduna

•Protesters hold Yakowa, GOC, SSS director hostage

**G**unmen on Thursday night raided Tabak Village near Zonkwa in Zangon Kataf Local Government Area of Kaduna State, killing two persons and injuring 14 others inside a church.

The attack on the village brought to six the number of such incidents in the last three months in the mainly Christian Southern Kaduna part of the state.

The gunmen swooped on unsuspecting worshippers at St. Joseph Catholic Church during a night prayer session.

An eyewitness claimed that some of the assailants stormed the village through the internationally-recognised cattle grazing route traversing the area, while the others headed for the Catholic Church where they opened fire on the worshippers.

Two female worshippers were instantly killed in the ensuing melee, while several others escaped from the church with varying degrees of injury.

Some youths in the area have however been pointing



•A ram market ahead of the 2011 Sallah in Magodo, Lagos... on Friday. Photo: Odutayo Odusanya

accusing fingers at Fulani herdsmen for the surprise attacks on the people of the area.

The youth leaders, who pleaded anonymity, blamed the state government and security agents for the series of attack on Southern Kaduna villages since the post-presidential election violence in the state.

Our correspondent

learnt that while 14 of those seriously injured during the attack on the village and church were admitted in hospitals in the area, the others were undergoing treatment for minor injuries in their individual homes.

Governor Patrick Yakowa; the state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Bala Nasarawa; and the Special Adviser to the Governor on Security

Matters, Col. Dangana Mammen, have been on a visit to the scene of the attack to assess the situation.

The Kaduna State Police Public Relations Officer, Aminu Lawan, confirmed the midnight attack on the village and the killings that occurred in the church.

Lawan, a deputy superintendent of police, said he could not make

further comments on the incident until later in the day.

The PPRO said, "The commissioner of police is already there with some other highly placed government officials. I'm still trying to get the details about the incident. I'll get back to you later."

A drama however occurred during the governor's visit to the scene of the incident as hundreds of angry protesting women and youths of the area held him hostage for over an hour.

The protesters, who chanted various anti-government slogans, said that the state government had failed to protect them against attacks from the assailants, who had formed the habit of launching attacks on them at night.

Some youth leaders in the area eventually calmed and prevailed upon the protesters to let the governor, who was also in company with the General Officer Commanding One Division, Nigerian Army, Kaduna, Maj-Gen. Joseph Shoboiki, and the Director of the Kaduna State Command of the State Security Service, Mr. Yomi Zamba, visit the injured victims in hospital. Meanwhile, the Christian Association of Nigeria in Kaduna State has expressed concern over the midnight attack on Tabak village and the church.

CAN said that it was unthinkable that such a nocturnal attack had become a commonplace in the southern part of the state, where since last April, police and military checkpoints have been set up and an unofficial curfew imposed on the residents.

CAN Secretary, Rev. Yunusa Nmadu, said in a statement that the killing of innocent worshippers in a church during a night service by the gunmen had introduced a dangerous dimension to the development in Southern Kaduna since the last April election.

## Low patronage forces ram prices down

Success Nwogu, Ilorin

**L**ow patronage forced the prices of ram down in Kwara State on Friday.

The harsh economic situation in the country appeared to be affecting the celebration of this year's Eid-el-Kabir as many Muslim faithful complained of the inability to buy rams.

Our correspondent, who monitored the prices of rams

in the Ilorin metropolis, discovered that prices of the rams initially ranged from N20,000 to N150,000, depending on the size. But it had started falling to between N15,000 and N120,000 as at Monday.

Even after the price reduction, many prospective buyers complained of lack of money to buy, while the sellers lamented low patronage.

Some traders and farmers said they had not been able to generate sufficient revenue to buy their rams. Also, some teachers and local government workers said they could not buy rams, as they alleged that they had not received their October salaries.

It was discovered that ram sellers, who often came from Zamfara, Katsina, Kano, Sokoto and even

Niger Republic, appeared unhappy.

One of them, who identified himself simply as Bako, said he had only sold a few rams, unlike many years ago when his rams would have been sold out by now. He said customers complained of the high prices of rams and lack of money to buy.

Meanwhile, Kwara State Governor, Abdulfatah Ahmed, has called for peaceful co-existence among different religious faithful in Nigeria.

In his Eid-el-Kabir message on Friday, he said peaceful co-existence and display of love towards one another were the attributes could advance Nigeria.

He urged Nigerians to emulate the good teachings of Prophet Mohammed, which harped on good neighbourliness, sacrifice, love, righteousness, humility and total submission to the injunctions of Almighty Allah.

## Lawyers tasked over rule of law as IBA conference closes

Omolara Ogunleye, Dubai

**T**he 2011 edition of the International Bar Association closed in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on Friday.

The conference, which commenced last Sunday, ended with the Rule of Law symposium organised by the Rule of Law Action Group of the association.

It has become the tradition that the final day of IBA conferences are dedicated to rule of law issues since 2005 when the IBA Council passed it in a resolution in Prague.

The rule of law sessions are designed to stir and assist the members of the IBA in supporting and promoting the rule of law in their various countries.

This 2011 session examined among other topics, 'Women's inequality and the rule of law,' as well as issues relating to laws and practices, which bar women from having full equality of rights in some countries.

A farewell party to round off the programme (which had yet

to hold as at the time of filing this report), was organised to take place at Madinat Jumeirah.

However, ahead of the party on Friday, a notice was released, informing participants that alcohol would not be served at the party in observance of the holy day.

The day, having been declared as WAKFAT ARAFAT, meant only food and soft drinks would be served.

## Subsidy: NIM calls for gradual deregulation

Success Nwogu, Ilorin

**T**he President, Nigerian Institute of Management, Dr. Sally Adukwu-Bolujoko, has urged the Federal Government to adopt a gradual deregulation of the downstream sector to reduce the initial hardship the policy may inflict on Nigerians.

She said commencing a full deregulation or full withdrawal of oil subsidy now without palliative measures by the Federal Government would inflict hardship on Nigerians.

She told reporters after the inauguration of NIM, Kwara State Polytechnic chapter, in Ilorin on Friday, that the FG should make the refineries work and refine locally.

She also said the government should construct and rehabilitate the nation's roads and develop the transportation system.

"The NIM has said that deregulation is good, but it has to be strategic. It should be gradual and not 100 per cent. That is what will inflict hardship. We should withdraw

it gradually.

"While we are withdrawing gradually, we are putting other measures together, such as making the refineries to work and efficiently too, and make oil be refined by ourselves and we stop refining outside. There is the need to develop our roads, our transport system so that as people are paying more, they can leave their cars and take cheap transportation, such as rail. These are the things that are done in the developed world," she said.