

AUGUST 1, 2016

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Global Concern Mounts As Religious Leaders Issue Prayer Appeal



Posted on Jul 30 2016 - 1:13am by Ndubuisi Ugah Views: 15

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...Spate Of Killings Decimate Christian Community In Nigeria

Religious leaders around the world, including those in the United States are asking their members to pray for the Christian community in Nigeria and particularly the northern part of the country, where more than a dozen Christians have been murdered in recent months.

Hundreds of Christians have fled the North since the spate of killings began, according to investigations by an online news portal, Per Second News.Com, which also revealed that the killing of Christians in northern Nigeria have increased by 62 per cent in just one year.

Per Second News gathered that a publication this year by World Watch List (WWL), showed that a staggering 62 per cent rise in violent killings of Christians in northern Nigeria as churches in the country unite to highlight this problem for the first time.

The report, which is to be released in Abuja, by a group, Open Doors and the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), 'Crushed but not defeated, the impact of persistent violence on the church in northern Nigeria', revealed the detailed study of the violence that had occurred in the past one year.

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Investigation revealed that in 2015, about 4,028 killings and 198 church attacks were recorded, according to the online news portal, compared to the 2,484 killings and 108 church attacks that were recorded in the previous year.

An estimated 30 million Christians in northern Nigeria form the largest minority in a mainly Muslim environment. For decades, Christians in the region have suffered marginalisation and discrimination as well as targeted violence.

Members of the Christian Association of Nigerian- Americans (CANAN), while speaking through its Executive Director, Dr. Ade Oyesile, said: “We are saddened by the rapid occurrences of these atrocious killings without a corresponding accountability being meted to the growing list of perpetrators.”

It also urged the Federal Government to go beyond mere expression of shock at the vicious killings and set in motion practical steps to stem the ugly spectacle of continuous massacre of Christians. The group noted: “As at July 20, 2016, our records show that at least 384 Christians had been killed and 111 injured in various parts of the country.

With just weeks past midyear, this figure compares in a scar proportion to a total of 431 deaths and 301 injured Christians in the entire 2015.” Also reacting, a magazine that chronicles attack on Christians, revealed in its publication recently, that: “These killings are carried out either by tit-for-tat attacks, arson on properties especially churches or the targeted systematic killings of Christians perpetuated by the Boko Haram terrorist group. “Our figures of Christians killed and maimed by Muslims are consistent with documentation by “The Religion of Peace.”

The magazine, which gave more details of the vicious killings for this year alone, said: “On January 27, at least 16 Christians were killed and 32 injured when a suicide bomber sent a shrapnel at a vegetable market in Chibok, a Christian town in Maiduguri. “On January 29, in Adamawa, 10 Christians were killed and 28 injured when a suicide bomber detonated a bomb at a busy market near a church. All the victims were Christians.

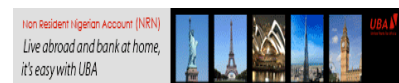
“On February 14 in Abbi community in Uzo-Uwani, Enugu State, Fulani herdsmen killed two Christians when a brother and sister were hacked down in a Christian dominated community. Nineteen people were injured.” On February 24 in Agatu, Benue State, the nation witnessed the merciless killings of at least 300 Christians by radical Islamic mercenaries including pregnant women.

“In Enugu on April 25, 48 Christians were killed and 60 injured also perpetuated by Fulani herdsmen. On April 30, in Dadawa, an outskirt of Sabongari in Kano State, a man and his daughter were burnt alive in a church by Boko Haram.

“At Ninte village, in Jema’a Local Government Area in Kaduna State on May 31, just a month after, three Christians were burnt to death in a pastor’s home as they slept. “In Kano on June 2, a Christian woman was beheaded by Islamic fundamentalists after a minor argument.

On June 30 at Obi town, in Nasarawa State, a pastor was killed by a militant Muslim. “The July 9 incident where a female pastor was hacked to death in the FCT by Muslim radicals traumatised every right thinking individual. “These dastardly killing of Christians in the country must stop.

It is most disappointing that these unprovoked killings of Christians have continued



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despite the Federal Government condemnation statements. "There is palpable anger in the land and it is anger without answers, and the Federal Government has a direct responsibility to secure the lives of all citizens.

"This is more so as we Christians, do not preach gospel of retaliation, we preach peace and peace we are seeking now." "Whatever the Federal Government is doing, if any, it is either too slow or insignificant compared with the reoccurrence of the killings; the Federal Government needs to step up and take bold actions to give members of the Christian community in the country a sense of security and belonging."

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