

# Two Ondo pastors killed within 24 hours

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AKURE

**T**wo pastors have been killed in different areas and circumstances within 24 hours in Ondo State.

1 Suspected kidnappers killed a pastor and abducted three commuters travelling in a commercial vehicle on Owo-Ikare Road in Akoko South-West Local Government Area. Another pastor, Deji Joshua, was killed by suspected armed robbers at Okitipupa in Okitipupa Local Government Area.

Joshua, a pastor with the Goodnews Baptist Church, Igbegunrin in Ilaje Local Government Area was shot dead by suspected armed robbers on Monday night.

Joshua, who was riding his motorcycle, was killed on his way home at Okitipupa.

According to sources, the Baptist was shot at close range around Ode-Aye.

The earlier incident occurred when the pastor and other commuters took off from Ikare, headquarters of Akoko North-East Local Government Area and were going to Akure, when they were seized at Ose-Oba axis of the road.

According to a source, the pastor, who confronted the gunmen, was shot in the head. He was left in the pool of his blood. He died before he could get the hospital.

Reacting to the incidents, the state Chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Rev John Ayo Oladapo, called on the security agencies in the state to fish out the killers of the two pastors.

He said: "We are saddened by the incidents and we are imploring the police and other security agents to fish out the killers and bring them to book."

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Femi Joseph, said the police command had been trying to unravel those behind the killings.