

Benue: Gunmen abduct four nurses, kill health worker

Cephas Iorhemen
MAKURDI

Armed men have kidnapped four nurses while they also killed a health

worker in Benue State.

The state Chairman of the National Association of Nigerian Nurses and Midwives (NNM), Comrade Esther Akpai, disclosed this in Makurdi, the state capital.

She raised the alarm of threat to lives of nurses in the state, saying the nurses were abducted at different locations in the state.

Akpai said nurses in the state were facing security challenges in the discharge of their duties, and regretted that neither the state government nor security chiefs

in the state had come to their rescue.

She regretted that criminals were still on the trail of her members.

Akpai also said that the State General Hospital in Katsina-Ala had been shut down following the union's advice on the security situation in the area.

She said: "As at last year, two nurses working at Federal Medical Centre, Makurdi were abducted, also in Katsina-Ala and one health worker was killed during the crisis in Katsina-Ala.

"As a result of the crisis, we advised the board, (Health Management Board) to close down the State

General Hospital in Katsina-Ala and it has been shut down.

"Yet the criminals are still running after nurses in Katsina-Ala."

Alluding to steps taken by the state government and security operatives to tackle the security challenge faced by her members, Akpai said, "at any point we have such issues, we draw the attention of government and security chiefs in the state to them but there is no response.

"You know, nurses work on three shifts, but the second shift close at 9p.m. and third shift resume that time, so at that time, they are going home they (nurses) are exposed to attack."



Gunmen

the court to accept the plea