

Bandits invade Kaduna church, kill medical doctor, 8 others, abduct scores

Baba Negedu
KADUNA

Bandits have attacked a church in Kaduna during a Sunday service, killing a medical doctor and abducting many others.

The fresh attack is coming barely two days after the killing of three students of Greenfield University along the Kaduna-Abuja highway.

About twenty of the students are still in captivity while negotiations are ongoing between the bandits and the family.

Meanwhile, the attack on the church took place in Manini Tasha Village, Kuriga Ward in Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

A medical Doctor with the Kaduna State Ministry of Health, Dr. Zakariah Dogo Yaro was shot dead during the attack while an unspecified number of persons were abducted from the church.

The Kaduna State Government and the state police command have confirmed the attack.

This is as the state government also disclosed that not less than 8 persons, including an eight year old, were killed in separate attacks across the state.

The separate attacks took place in Birnin Gwari, Igabi and Kachia local government areas.

Meanwhile, an eye witness who narrowly escaped from the bandits during the church service at Haske Baptist Church in Manini Village, Mr. Yakubu Bala,

disclosed that the bandits, who were heavily armed, invaded the church at about 9 a.m. when members were worshipping in the church.

He explained that the bandits came in their numbers, heavily armed and began to shoot sporadically at the church and anyone in sight.

There was pandemonium as church members scampered for safety and were running in all directions for their dear life.

He said, "Dr. Zakariah Dogo Yaro, a medical doctor with the Kaduna State Ministry of Health was shot dead and unspecified number of people kidnapped while so many worshipers sustained varying degrees of injuries.

"As I am talking to you now, we have not seen some of our villagers who ran into the bushes while the shootings were going on.

"We don't know what is happening that we are facing this kind of problem in our peaceful communities. Most Villagers are already leaving their homes because of the constant attacks in so many villages in Chikun Local Government," Yakubu lamented.

While condemning the church attacks, state Commissioner, Ministry of Internal Security and Home, Samuel Aruwan, said "Government condemned in the strongest terms the attack by armed bandits on a place of worship on Sunday morning."

Aruwan said the security report made available to the state government shows that "about four worship-

pers were abducted from the church. One resident, Shehu Mainika was injured by the bandits."

In another security report made available to newsmen, "armed bandits invaded Bagoma village, Birnin Gwari LGA and killed six persons.

"One person, Salisu Gwamna, older brother of the deceased, Bala Gwamna, was injured in the attack.

"Also reported was an

attack by armed bandits at Amfu village in Kachia LGA, in which one Mrs. Rahila Dauda was shot dead.

"Also partially burnt corpse of a seven-year-old, Abubakar Sarki Musa was found in an uncompleted building in Hayin Danmani area, Rigasa, Igabi LGA.

"One Saddique Umar, an 18-year-old resident of the area, confessed to killing him, after luring the boy into the deserted building in a bid to steal a phone placed

in his possession.

"Governor Nasir el-Rufai roundly denounced the attack on the church in Chikun as a shocking act of depraved persons far removed from humanity.

"The Governor added that attacking innocent worshipers, who were exercising their natural and lawful right to assemble in worship, represented the worst kind of evil."

On their part, the police said, "Bandits in large num-

bers, bearing dangerous weapons, invaded the village and shot sporadically which resulted in people scampering for safety in different directions.

"Preliminary investigation conducted so far revealed that four persons are missing which arouse a suspicion that they might have been kidnapped by the hoodlums."

Spokesman of the Command, ASP Mohammed Jalige, said, "Normalcy has since been restored; security has been beefed up in the area with a view to forestalling reoccurrence of the dastardly attack while concerted effort is ongoing to locate the missing persons."



Philanthropist and a former member of the House of Representatives, representing Aniocha North-South and Oshimili North-South Constituency, Prince Ned Nwoko (middle); his wife Regina (3rd, L) and other participants during a Malaria Awareness Walk to commemorate 2021 World Malaria Day, at the Unity Fountain in Abuja - yesterday

PHOTO: NAN

Polaris Bank grows PBT by 4% to N28.9bn in 2020

Tony Chukwunyem

Polaris Bank Limited has posted a four per cent rise in its profit before tax for the 2020 financial year to N28.9 billion from N27.8 billion in 2019, the lender's full-year audited financial results for the year ended December 2020 show.

The results, according

to a press release, show that the bank, after two years of operation, consolidated its position as a financial institution focused on the path of profitability, growth, and value creation.

Details of the results show that Polaris Bank's 2020 performance was driven by a combination of significant reduction

in interest expense due to the bank's pursuit of low interest-bearing deposits as well as lowering impairment charges on loans and other financial assets.

The bank recorded Return on Asset (ROA) and Return on Equity (ROE) of 2.4 per cent and 29.4 percent respectively, which favorably place the lender as a key player in

the industry. Its total assets stood at N1.18 trillion, a three per cent growth on the previous year while shareholders' funds grew by N14 billion (17 percent), largely attributable to internally generated profits.

Also, Polaris Bank increased its customer deposits by N56 billion, predominantly low-cost deposits in spite of difficult economic and industry