

# CAN condemns renewed killings in Plateau

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**T**he Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) has expressed concerns over the resurgence of "mindless" killings in Plateau State, especially in the Mangu and Riyom local government areas by gunmen suspected to be herdsmen.

The group lamented the report that "about 130 people were killed, about 1,000 buildings were burnt, and about 22 villages were affected".

In a statement yesterday CAN President, Daniel Okoh, cautioned Christians against taking actions that would further escalate the situation.

The Archbishop said: "It is with deep concern that I address the nation on the recent resurgence of the mindless killing of innocent citizens in the Mangu and Riyom LGAs.

"The killings, which started in Mangu villages on May 15 by so-called 'unknown gunmen', have claimed many lives and property, with many persons still missing.

The villages affected included Fungzai, Hale, Kubwat, Bwoi and many other communities in the Kombun District in the Mangu LGA and some communities in the Riyom LGA.

"According to reports, about 130 people were killed, about 1,000

buildings were burnt, and about 22 villages were affected.

"We condemn these barbaric acts in the strongest terms possible. It is disheartening to see innocent citizens being killed and their property destroyed in such a gruesome manner.

"While we appreciate the efforts of the security forces to maintain peace, we call on the government and law enforcement agencies to bring the perpetrators of these heinous acts to justice and to ensure the protection of life and property."

He urged all parties involved to embrace peace and dialogue as a means of resolving their differences.

Okoh added: "Violence only begets more violence and we must break this cycle if we are to build a peaceful and prosperous society.

"It is important to emphasise that CAN unequivocally opposes any form of violence or reprisal as we strive to advance the well-being of all individuals, regardless of their religious or ethnic background.

"Let me appeal to all Nigerians in the Mangu and Riyom LGAs and indeed, all over the country, to remain calm and law-abiding in the face of these challenges. We must not allow ourselves to be provoked into taking actions that will further escalate the situation."