

# Fury, as Boko Haram beheads CAN chair in Adamawa

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- Insurgents rejected N50m ransom
- CAN declares 3-day prayers, fasting for Nigeria
- Asks FG to end Boko Haram insurgents' wanton killings
- Killing of CAN Chairman Cruel, Provocative —Buhari

**YOLA**—THE vicious jihadist terrorist organisation, Islamic State's West Africa Province, ISWAP, also known as Boko Haram sect has beheaded abducted Chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria, CAN, in Michika Local Government Area of Adamawa State, Rev. Lawan Andimi.

Ahmad Salkida, a Nigerian journalist, who is in self-exile in the United Arab Emirates after alleged death threats broke the news via Twitter yesterday, revealing that Andimi was executed by his abductors on Monday.

Salkida, who has been reporting the activities of the insurgents since mid-2006, tweeted: "To break

some news items can traumatise. I'm battling with one of such. Reverend Andimi, abducted by Boko Haram was executed yesterday, (Monday).

"Rev. Andimi was a church leader, a father to his children and the community he served. My condolences go to his family."

The terrorists had demanded for ransom of 2 million Euros and were offered N50 million, which they rejected before beheading the cleric, Adamawa State Chairman of CAN, Reverend Father Dami Mamza told newsmen in Yola, yesterday while confirming the killing of Andimi.

According to Reverend Mamza, negotiations were still going on with the in-

surgents last week when they stopped calling after the offer was made to them.

He noted that the insurgents also called the wife of the slain Pastor that they would kill the husband on Saturday, but they delayed until Monday.

The Adamawa CAN Chairman maintained that the video and picture of the killing was released through one Ahmad Salkida, a Boko Haram negotiator based in Dubai.

Reverend Father Danmi Mamza stated that the gory picture of the killing was released to the President of the EYN Church, Reverend Daniel Mbaya.

Recall that Andimi had cried for help from captivity, asking Governor Ahmadu Fintiri of Adamawa State, among others to rescue him.

In a video obtained by Salkida, Andimi said the insurgents had not maltreated him since he was abducted.

He said "I have never been discouraged because all conditions that one finds himself are in the hand of God. I am appealing to my colleagues, reverends, particularly my President, Reverend Joel Billy, who is a strong man, a man of compassion and man of love. He can do all his best to speak to our governor, Umaru Jibrilla (Fintiri) and other necessary agents for my release here.

"These people have been doing well to me. They are feeding me with all that I want to eat. They provide a nice place for me to sleep, blanket and every need. So, I believe that they didn't do anything wrong to me. I believe that He who made them to act in such a way is still alive and will make all arrangements, by the grace of God I will be together with my wife, children and colleagues.

"If the opportunity has not

been granted, maybe it is the will of God. I want all people close and far, colleagues to be patient. Don't cry, don't worry but thank God for everything," Andimi said in the video before he was executed.

## CAN fumes

Reacting to the killing, national leadership of CAN said his death and other captives in the hands of insurgents was a shame on the Federal Government.

In a release by its Director, Legal and Public Affairs, Evang. Kwamkur Vondip, CAN said among others, "CAN deeply sympathises with the immediate family of Late Rev. Andimi, the President and members of Eklessiya Yan'uwa a Najeriya (EYN) Church, the government of Adamawa State and the entire Church in the country. We recall sadly that Late Rev. Lawan Andimi while in captivity made a passionate appeal to the leadership of his church and the Federal Government to come to his rescue.

"The Church did everything within her reach to secure the safe release of this pastor gentleman but it was not possible because they didn't have the military power to do so. Just last Sunday, a clergyman, Rev Denis Bagauri was murdered by unknown gunmen in his residence at Mayo Belwa of Adamawa.

"The Church views the unabated kidnappings, extortions and killings of Christians and innocent Nigerians as shameful to the government that each time boasts that it has conquered insurgency. It is saddening that each time the government comes out to claim the defeat of the insurgency; more killings of our people are committed.

"In the light of the current developments and the circumstantial facts sur-