

"There is today, an epic battle waged against the church in Nigeria. The daily violence and brutal persecution endured by Nigerian followers of Jesus are both shocking and disturbing. This edition of the 'Persecution and Prayer Alert' implores Canadian Christians to set aside a dedicated time of prayer and fasting to intercede on behalf of our Nigerian family in Christ."

~ Floyd Brobbel, Chief Executive Officer for The Voice of the Martyrs Canada

NIGERIA: Hundreds Slain in Campaign of Violence

Sources: Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Jubilee Campaign, VOMC Sources

Attempts to stay current with the reporting of attacks and destruction in Nigeria can seem devastatingly futile. The description expressed by VOMC's CEO Floyd Brobbel, as it being "an epic battle," is apropos. One witness defines the situation as an "atmosphere of anarchy and despair." A report from the International Society for Civil Liberties and Rule of Law states that at least 620 Christians have been killed in the first five months of 2020 alone.

The coordinated attacks have been described as a genocide against Christians. For members of the Boko Haram terrorist group, their specified goal is to create an Islamic caliphate in Nigeria, thus considering the large Christian population an obstacle to their plans. Similar Islamic ideologies held by the Fulani herdsmen led to daily attacks on villages that are predominantly Christian. Men, women and children have been slaughtered without hesitation.

VOMC's Greg Musselman recently interviewed Rev. Yunusa Nmadu, CEO of Christian Solidarity Worldwide Nigeria. We encourage you to pause for a few minutes and view this captivating [video report](#). This first-hand report will help provide some additional background information on what is happening within the country, as well as specific ways you can pray for the many needs that are representative of our Nigerian brothers and sisters in Christ. For other written reports on Nigeria, please visit [country report](#).



Pray that God will keep the surviving Christians in Nigeria encouraged in their faith, despite the constant barrage of violence and devastating loss. May they not despair nor give up, but rather find great comfort and strength in the Lord. As they recover from the trauma of repeated attacks, may He minister to their every need – whether it be spiritual, physical, or emotional. Ask Him to also touch the hearts of the governmental leaders, so they will take a strong stand against this inhumane savagery and implement effective strategies to prevent it.

NIGERIA: At Least 37 Dead in Kaduna State

Sources: Christian Post, Church in Chains, Save the Persecuted Christians, The Punch, Morning Star News



This baby girl suffered a bullet wound during one of the attacks.
Photo: Church in Chains

Two recent attacks in Kaduna State show the extent of violence facing Nigerian Christians due to the terrorism of Fulani militia groups....

On the evening of May 11th, Fulani gunmen laid siege to the village of Gonan Rogo in the Kajuru area. Entire households were wiped out as the militants went from house to house, killing those they found. In one home, Jonathan Yakubu was slaughtered, along with his wife and three young children. In another home, a mother and child were killed, but a three-month-old baby girl miraculously survived a bullet wound to her head. The baby is now in the care of her aunt. In all, 17 people were killed that night and six injured. Ages of the victims ranged from young children to the elderly.

Fulani herdsmen are also suspected as the perpetrators of further attacks on several farming villages from May 18th to the 22nd,

resulting in the deaths of at least 20 people, with several others injured or missing. These villages were all inhabited by the Adara people, who are known to be predominantly Christian. According to one resident, as many as 4,000 people are now internally displaced due to the attacks, and often struggling to survive with little to eat. Awema Maisamari from the Adara Development Association reports that at least 63 attacks have taken place in the Kajuru region since this January.

May the Lord's comforting presence and grace rest on each of the Nigerian believers now grieving the devastating loss of loved ones who were slain in these communities. Pray that the survivors will receive healing and consolation from God, and that they be further encouraged through their relationships with one another. Continue upholding the Nigerian authorities who must act proactively and swiftly in order to counter these attacks, rather than arriving at the scene well after the perpetrators have departed and the damage has been done.

PRAISE REPORT

NIGERIA: Justice Declared for Kidnapped Girl

Sources: Christian Solidarity Worldwide, Vanguard, Wikipedia

On August 12th, 2015, a 13-year-old girl named Ese Rita Oruru was kidnapped from her home in Bayelsa State of southern Nigeria. After being taken to the northern state of Kano, she was raped, forcibly converted to Islam, and married to her kidnapper.

From the beginning, it was known that the kidnapper was Yunusa Dahiru, nicknamed "Yellow." The parents repeatedly appealed for her release, but were unsuccessful, in part because the Emir of Kanu was connected to the forced conversion and marriage, which took place in his palace.

Ese was finally rescued by Kano State Police on February 29th, 2016. Upon her rescue, they discovered that the young teen was five months pregnant. Her abductor, Yunusa Dahiru, was arraigned at the time on five counts, including abduction, child trafficking and sexual exploitation. After much delay, a court decision finally took place more than four years later. On May 21st, the federal court found her kidnapper guilty of four of the five charges and sentenced him to a total of 26 years in prison.



Photo: Facebook

We praise God that justice has finally been served in this legal case after the long delay. Pray for this young teenaged mother, Ese, as she raises her precious child with the help and provision of the Lord, despite the circumstances resulting in her pregnancy. Pray that the lives of both this mother and child will serve as testimonies to others of the love, grace and healing that only Christ can provide in the midst of what would otherwise be an overwhelming situation (Romans 8:28).

If you would like to post a prayer of praise or petition on behalf of our persecuted family around the globe, visit [VOMC's prayer wall](#).

The Persecution & Prayer Alert is a ministry of:
The Voice of the Martyrs Canada, P.O. Box 608, Streetsville, Ontario, L5M 2C1
Tel. (905) 670-9721 Website: www.vomcanada.com

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