



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF NIGERIA

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CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF NIGERIA (CBCN) PRESS STATEMENT

STOP THE SLAUGHTER IN BORGU AND UKUM, STOP THE KILLINGS IN NIGERIA *“The blood of your brother cries out to me from the ground.” — Genesis 4:10*

With heavy hearts and deep sorrow, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria (CBCN) once again decries the unabated trail of blood and terror across our nation which has reached an intolerable crest.

The recent barbaric abduction of over 60 worshippers from a Mosque in Borgu, Niger State, and the horrific massacre of 47 innocent citizens, with 17 others critically wounded, in Ukum, Benue State, represent a worsened breakdown of security. Whether in a mosque, a church, a marketplace, or the quiet of their homes, Nigerians are still being slaughtered, traumatised, and displaced with impunity.

We extend our deepest condolences to the grieving families in Benue State and pray for the quick recovery of the wounded. We stand in firm solidarity with our Muslim brothers and sisters in Niger State, and all over Nigeria, praying for the immediate and safe release of all 60 abducted worshippers. An attack on any place of worship is an attack on our collective humanity.

To those in government at all levels, security chiefs, and political leaders, while we commend some efforts being made, we urge that you do not give up on this responsibility until the security and welfare for the citizens are guaranteed. The tears of bereaved families in Niger, Benue, and across every geopolitical zone in Nigeria must worry you enough to do everything possible to stop this carnage in our land. We appeal once more on behalf of all Nigerians that you deploy proactive, intelligence-led security to neutralise criminal hubs before they strike. Also, bring perpetrators and their sponsors, regardless of their status or affiliations, to justice swiftly, as impunity fuels repetition.

To the bandits, terrorists, kidnappers, and their sponsors, we plead that you stop the bloodshed! Human life belongs to God alone, and no cause justifies this cruelty. You cannot build a future on the tears of innocent persons. “Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows” (Galatians 6:7). We call on you to lay down your arms, turn away from evil, and respect the sanctity of human life before divine judgment overtakes you.

Finally, we urge all Nigerians never to lose hope in Nigeria, but to remain steadfast in prayer for peace, security, and divine intervention in our land.

May the God of peace restore order to our nation, comfort those who mourn, and touch the hearts of those who inflict pain.

Signed,

✠Matthew Man-Oso Ndagoso
Archbishop of Kaduna
President, CBCN



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