



fear. Businesses have shut their doors. Communities have become ghost settlements. Entire regions have watched development retreat as insecurity advanced. Still, life goes on. Or at least, political life does. This is perhaps the greatest contradiction of the Nigerian condition. While citizens mourn, politicians campaign. While communities bury victims, political actors calculate electoral permutations. While families desperately seek ransom money for kidnapped loved ones, the nation's political machinery continues to operate with remarkable energy and enthusiasm. The rallies are organized. The alliances are negotiated. The defections are celebrated. The ambitions are declared. The campaigns never pause. One would have imagined that a nation facing such a profound security crisis would witness an unprecedented coalition of political leaders united by a singular objective: saving lives. One would expect political parties to suspend partisan rivalries in favour of a national rescue mission. One would expect influential voices to rise above political interests and mobilize citizens toward collective action against a menace threatening the country's very existence. The worst part of it now is that nobody in the country is safe anymore. Recent security reports in the country highlight escalating mass kidnappings and armed raids across multiple states. Key developments feature ongoing school abductions in Borno and Oyo states, deadly raids in Kwara and Kogi states, and widespread concern over how the economy and politics are impacting safety. Gunmen and bandits have continued to target educational institutions, sparking widespread national concern and outrage. Notable recent abductions of school children and staff in Borno and Oyo states remain unresolved, drawing criticism from both home and abroad regarding the government's handling of the crisis. Armed groups and bandits have carried out deadly incursions, including raids on a Catholic church in Eruku and an attack that razed a traditional ruler's palace in Kwara State.

Further abductions and clashes have also been reported in Kogi, Kebbi, and Taraba states. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are strongly condemning the federal government for failing to stem the tide of killings and kidnappings

In response to the worsening killings and massive kidnappings going on across the country, the Christian Association of Nigeria had rose-up from Church-Leaders Summit in Abuja and declared Friday, June 12 to Sunday, June 14, 2026 a period of national mourning, with Sunday June 14 marked as "Black Sunday" across all churches, in honour of Nigerians killed by terrorists, bandits and kidnappers. The directive followed the National Church Denominational Leaders' Summit 2026 held Tuesday in Abuja under the theme "The State of the Nation and the Way Forward." Leaders from CAN, Catholic Secretariat, CPFN, CCN, TEKAN/ECWA, OAIC and other blocs said the nation is under siege. In a 16-point communique signed by CAN President Archbishop Daniel Okoh, the church body expressed "profound alarm" over mass abductions, beheadings, attacks on farms, schools and highways, and displacement of entire communities. CAN called on President Bola Tinubu's government to immediately declare a State of Emergency on Security, review the national security architecture, and accelerate the establishment of state police and other decentralized security structures. "The protection of lives and property remains the foremost constitutional responsibility of government," the communique stated. "We demand urgent, decisive and measurable action to halt the bloodshed and restore public confidence." Church leaders demanded immediate and unconditional release of all abducted schoolchildren, teachers and citizens. They also called for a comprehensive compensation, rehabilitation and resettlement programme for victims and communities

whose homes, schools and churches were destroyed. CAN said thousands of Nigerians remain displaced from ancestral lands, living in fear while victims get "little support, justice or compensation." The summit criticized the rush toward 2027 electioneering while communities remain under attack. CAN urged political leaders and parties to suspend "divisive political distractions" and focus on restoring security and rebuilding public confidence. "Political calculations, defections and premature electioneering continue while many



communities remain under siege,” CAN said. It called on NLC, NBA, NUT, student bodies, CSOs and traditional rulers to join in holding government accountable. While designating “Black Sunday” for prayers and solidarity with victims’ families, CAN said “prayer must be matched with action.” The association resolved to intensify advocacy and sustained dialogue with the Presidency, National Assembly and security agencies. “Church leaders reaffirm their resolve to remain united, vigilant and steadfast in prayer, advocacy and constructive engagement for the good of Nigeria,” Archbishop Okoh concluded. The General Overseer of the Redeemed Christian Church of God, Enoch Adeboye, has called on the Federal Government to issue a 90-day ultimatum to Nigeria’s security chiefs to eliminate terrorism or step down from their positions. Adeboye made the appeal in a video shared on his X (formerly Twitter)

terrorists and their sponsors must be eliminated, no matter how powerful they are,” he added. Adeboye recalled that a former Nigerian president had once issued a similar three-month directive to security chiefs to end the Boko Haram insurgency but failed to enforce the order after the deadline expired. Reflecting on his interaction with the late president, Adeboye noted that although initial efforts were made, the lack of follow-through undermined the directive’s effectiveness. He maintained that his current recommendation is informed by that experience, urging the government to ensure strict enforcement if such a timeline is adopted. His comments come amid renewed concerns over persistent terrorist attacks, banditry, and kidnappings across the country, with increasing public pressure on authorities to take stronger action against insecurity. While Speaking on the issue the President of the Senate Godswill



account on Tuesday, expressing deep concern over the country’s deteriorating security situation. He emphasized the need for urgent and decisive action, stressing that security chiefs must be held accountable for tangible results in the fight against terrorism. According to him, while citizens can only advise the Commander-in-Chief, it is within the government’s power to set clear expectations and timelines for security leaders. “If I were to make a suggestion, I would say the government should act swiftly and direct the service chiefs to eradicate terrorists within 90 days or resign,” he said. The cleric also urged authorities to go beyond targeting terrorists alone, insisting that their sponsors must equally be identified and dealt with, regardless of their social or political influence. “When issuing directives, it should be made clear that both

Akpabio declared that Nigeria’s future hangs on its ability to protect children and teachers. Opening the session on June 2, 2026, Akpabio told lawmakers they were “custodians of the hopes and aspirations of Nigerians” and urged them to return to work renewed by faith, sacrifice, and service. But the mood was heavy. He said the chamber reconvened “under the mournful shadow of a tragedy that has shaken our nation” — the abduction of schoolchildren and teachers in Oyo State. Akpabio described the attack as more than a crime. It was, he said, an assault on Nigeria itself. “We mourn because if we cannot protect our children we imperil our future. We mourn because a nation that cannot guarantee the safety of its teachers weakens the very foundations upon which education rests. And we mourn because, for as long as those children remain in captivity, our nation remains captive with them.” He named the dead:

Mr. Michael Oyedokun, who died in captivity, and Mr. Adesiyun Adegboye, killed during the attack. He also mourned a child “whose life was cut short before its promise could be fulfilled. On behalf of the Senate, he extended condolences to bereaved families, the school community, and the government and people of Oyo State. “Yet even in the midst of grief, we remain hopeful that, through the determined efforts of the government and our security agencies, those still in captivity will be safely rescued and reunited with their loved ones.” Akpabio warned politicians against exploiting the tragedy for advantage. Read him: “At moments such as these, there is a temptation to divide, to accuse, and to seek advantage from tragedy. Those who kidnap our children... do not distinguish between party, faith, or ethnicity. Their assault is directed against Nigeria itself. Therefore, our response must be equal to the challenge.” He urged lawmakers to support every lawful measure to strengthen security, protect schools, and ensure “every bandit faces the full weight of justice.” He charged the Senate to differ honestly but remain united: “Let us continue to conduct ourselves with dignity so that future generations will say that when Nigeria faced difficulty, this Senate did not falter; when leadership was required, this Senate did not shrink; and when duty called, this Senate answered.” “With faith in God, confidence in our country, and determination in our purpose, I welcome you back to



the service of our great country, Nigeria. May God bless this Senate, and may God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.” The Executive Secretary of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Chief Tony Ojukwu (SAN), has called on the Federal Government to urgently rescue all abducted schoolchildren in Oyo State and other innocent children still being held captive across the country, while ensuring that perpetrators are brought to justice. Speaking on the occasion of the 2026 International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression, Ojukwu condemned the recent abductions of schoolchildren and teachers in Oyo and Borno states, describing the incidents as grave violations of children's rights and a direct attack on their right to education, safety and dignity. The NHRC boss stressed that attacks on schools and children undermine Nigeria's commitments under international and domestic legal frameworks, including the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and the Child Rights Act of 2003.

“Every child has the right to life, dignity, protection and education. Attacks on schools and children constitute a breach of these rights, and the NHRC demands zero tolerance for attacks and violence against schoolchildren,” Ojukwu stated.

He urged the government to fully implement the Safe Schools Initiative through adequate funding for security infrastructure, deployment of trained personnel, provision of safe transit routes and establishment of community-based protection systems. He also called on the Senate to expedite passage of the Safe Schools Bill proposed by the NHRC and other stakeholders.

Ojukwu further advocated the full enforcement of the Child Rights Act in all states and the effective implementation of the Universal Basic Education Act, 2004, to reduce children's vulnerability to exploitation, trafficking and abuse. According to him, child abduction, sexual violence, trafficking, child labour, recruitment by armed groups and corporal punishment remain serious threats to the welfare of children and must be addressed through coordinated action by government institutions and communities. The Executive Secretary assured that the NHRC would continue to monitor, investigate and pursue redress for violations against children, while calling for expanded psychosocial support services and safer learning environments free from fear, violence and neglect. “As we mark this day, we

reaffirm: no child should be left behind. Rescue the abducted, prosecute the perpetrators, and protect every Nigerian child,” he said.

The International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression is observed annually on June 4 to raise awareness about the suffering of children affected by violence, conflict and other forms of aggression worldwide.

The Federal Government spent N57.78 billion on security-related projects and operations between January and April 2026,

even as insecurity persisted across the country, with at least 98 criminal incidents, including 51 attacks and abductions, recorded nationwide within one week. Data obtained from the Open Treasury Portal showed that the expenditure represented a 127.97 per cent increase from the N25.35 billion spent during the same period in 2025. The spending covered defence equipment procurement, security infrastructure, military barracks, police facilities and other security-related projects. Analysis of the data indicated that only 1.24 per cent of the N4.66 trillion allocated to security in the 2026 budget had been utilized by April. Defence equipment procurement accounted for the largest share of the spending, with N21.39 billion disbursed, representing about 37 per cent of total security expenditure. Another N14.16 billion was spent on security equipment, while N5.84 billion went into the construction of military barracks. The government also spent N5.17 billion on police stations and barracks, N3.26 billion on rehabilitation of defence equipment, N2.39 billion on defence facilities and N2.16

billion on repairs of military barracks. For routine operations, N3 billion was spent on security services, while N320.94 million was released as security votes. However, no funds had been released for military operations under the budget line for “Operation Lafiya Dole and Other Operations of the Armed Forces,” despite a N500 million allocation. Similarly, no money had been disbursed for the kitting of Armed Forces personnel, although N2.53 billion was earmarked for the programme. The expenditure figures emerged as a police security report obtained by The PUNCH revealed that Nigeria recorded 98 criminal incidents within the last seven days. The incidents comprised 37 homicide cases, 27 banditry attacks, 24 kidnappings, eight armed robbery cases and two terrorism-related attacks. The crimes were reported across several states, including Kaduna, Katsina, Zamfara and Kebbi, involving attacks on rural communities, mass abductions and kidnappings along major highways. One of the most disturbing incidents occurred in Zamfara State, where 39 residents were reportedly abducted after travelling into the Fadama Forest to negotiate peace with a notorious bandit

indicated that five of the eight worshippers kidnapped from an Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA) congregation in Omugo, Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara State have been confirmed dead while still in the hands of their abductors. The church's pastor, Rev. Sunday Omole, disclosed this in a statement released on Wednesday night. He explained that the information came from one of the victims who managed to escape captivity and later narrated what he went through. According to him, only three of the abducted worshippers were still alive in the kidnappers' custody, while five had already been killed. He said, “It is with deep pain in my heart that I inform the church, families and individual concerned in regard to the 8 people that were abducted from ECWA OMUGO on 22nd of March, 2026. “We received one of our sons, Mr Sunday Bakare also abducted over a month ago, he escaped and brought the following news that only 3 out of 8 of our people are remaining with the kidnappers. The remaining 5 have gone to be with the Lord,” the statement stated. The cleric further identified those killed as David Omopariola, Joseph Ibitoye Afariogun, Iyabo Aniyi, Joshua Akanbi Adeyemi, and Rachel Oluwaremilekun Omole, who was his wife.



leader, Jimo Smally. In Katsina State, bandits blocked the Katsina-Kankara highway and intercepted a commercial vehicle carrying 11 passengers. Police later rescued nine victims, while the driver and another passenger remained missing. Security experts expressed concern over the worsening situation, despite increased government spending. Security analyst Lekan Jackson-Ojo described the situation as the worst insecurity crisis in Nigeria's history, saying the country had become increasingly unsafe and that insecurity was crippling economic activities. Another security analyst, Chidi Omeje, argued that the military remained overstretched despite increased funding and insisted that military operations alone could not resolve the crisis. According to him, insecurity is being fueled by poor governance, corruption, poverty, porous borders and instability across the Sahel region. The latest figures suggest that while government spending on security has increased significantly, violent attacks and criminal activities continue to spread across the country.

Meanwhile information reaching our newsroom has

He also encouraged church members to stay strong despite the tragedy. “Brethren, let's know that God knows why He allows this to happen. The great comforter will comfort us in Jesus name, amen,” Mr Omole added. The incident traces back to March, when armed bandits stormed the ECWA church during a worship service in Omugo community and abducted about eight members of the congregation. In response, the state Commissioner for Communications, Bolanle Olukoju, said the government had instructed security agencies to track down the attackers and ensure the victims were rescued alive. Meanwhile, insecurity continues to affect several parts of the region, with multiple victims either killed or still held in captivity, including a group of 176 people kidnapped in Woro in February who are yet to be freed. In Kogi State, residents of Ayegunle Bunu in Kabba-Bunu Local Government Area woke up in fear after a violent night raid by armed attackers. The incident happened in the early hours of Monday at about 2:25 a.m. on 1 June 2026, when gunmen invaded the community and also targeted a road where travelers were passing. During



the attack, two people were killed and about 30 individuals were taken away.

Earlier reports suggested one death, but the police later confirmed that two lives were lost. Community members said the attackers seized both local residents and passengers from a commercial bus. Among those kidnapped were two villagers, a man and a woman, while the rest were travelers stopped on the road. The police confirmed the scale of the incident through the spokesperson of the Kogi State Police Command, ASP Afusat Oyiza Saliu, who stated that 30 people were abducted, made up of 26 men and four women. She identified the victims who died as Abdullahi Hashimu, a 22-year-old man from Igabi Local Government Area in Kaduna State who was a passenger in one of the buses, and Chief James Obayomi, 65, who was among the residents taken during the raid. The police added that efforts were ongoing to rescue the abducted victims and arrest those responsible. In her words, “a total of 30 persons were kidnapped, comprising 26 males and four females.” Authorities also noted that investigations were still in progress as residents tried to understand the full impact of the attack. The Kogi incident has added to growing concern about insecurity affecting highways and rural settlements in the region. In a separate attack in Kaduna State, armed men stormed a mosque in Ungwan Namama village, located in the Kaya area of Giwa Local Government Area, killing one worshipper and abducting several others during evening prayers. Witnesses said the attackers arrived around 7:30 p.m. on Sunday while residents were observing Maghrib prayers, moving directly into the mosque and opening fire. A local source, who spoke anonymously for safety reasons, suggested the attack might be connected to revenge following a recent military operation in the area. The source explained, “They suspect that people in the village informed the military about their movement. That angered them, and they came back to attack the community.” He also said about five people were injured and taken to the Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital (ABUTH), Zaria. Another resident, Abdullahi Mustapha, confirmed the incident and described how worshippers were caught during prayer. “They came in around 7:30 p.m. while people were in the mosque observing Maghrib prayers. They killed one person, injured five, and abducted several others,” he said. Medical care was first given locally before the injured victims were

moved to ABUTH for further treatment. Security personnel later arrived, but the attackers had already escaped. A security official also confirmed the assault, saying, “It is true the attack occurred in the area. You know those bandits came from Zamfara and Katsina states and attacked the community. We are yet to ascertain the casualties.”

In Plateau State, another deadly raid occurred in Gwon-Ajang village in Foron District, Barkin Ladi Local Government Area, where at least eight people were killed and more than ten others injured. The attack happened on Sunday night around 10 p.m. when armed men entered the community during a birthday celebration and opened fire on people gathered for the event. Residents said panic spread immediately as people tried to escape the gunfire. A community youth, Bishop Iliya, explained that the victims were celebrating when the attackers struck. According to him, the gunmen shot indiscriminately at everyone present, causing multiple deaths and injuries. He described the incident as painful and called for stronger protection from authorities. “The people were gathered for a birthday celebration when the gunmen arrived and started shooting at everything in sight. It is a painful and unfortunate situation for our community,” he said. The Berom Youths Moulder-Association (BYM-A) also confirmed the attack in a statement signed by its spokesperson, Rwang Tengwong. The group said at least eight people were killed while more than ten others were seriously injured and taken to hospitals. The association urged security agencies to act quickly to stop further attacks and bring the attackers to justice. Efforts to reach police authorities in Plateau State for comment were not successful at the time of reporting.

A woman who was among those kidnapped from Ariko village during their Easter church service has given birth to a child in the bandits' camp. Remember, women, little children, and some men have now been in captivity for 58 days. However, this woman gave birth a week ago. A woman who emerged from the camp after trekking for 3 days in the bush said the birth was difficult because the pregnant woman, like others in the camp, was malnourished. According to her, the pregnant woman was ill when labour began, but with the help of other women experienced in traditional birth, they managed to help her give birth. She said the women pooled bits and pieces of their clothes that hadn't been washed since they arrived and wrapped the child.

When the bandits refused to give them anything sharp to cut the umbilical cord, after about an hour, a woman, out of desperation, used her teeth to cut it. Later, they pleaded for water to clean the child and the mother, but the bandits refused, saying they wouldn't waste water on a child who wouldn't survive. They wanted to go to a nearby stream to wash the child, but the bandit said no. They also pleaded with the bandits to release the women so she could go home with the baby, but the bandits refused. The next problem was that the mother's breasts had no milk, as nothing came out because she was so malnourished. A while later, the child began to suck the little that started to come. Hours later, they were still pleading for water to wash the child and the mother when it began to rain. The woman said they resorted to wetting a cloth in the rain and using it to wipe the child. She said the child was still alive five days later when she came out, though part of the umbilical cord attached to the navel had not yet fallen off. She described acute hunger and pus-filled rashes covering most of their skin, especially the children's. She described little children and the women with heads full of lice. She spoke of how young children in the camp are persuaded to drink large amounts of river water just to fill their bellies and reduce hunger.



She spoke of how the bandits will lead women into the bush to forage for leaves, which they boil and eat. She spoke of a time when they went 5 days without anything to eat except boiled leaves and water. She spoke of how the men are always chained with bicycle chains. She said that sometimes the bandits lead some men into the bush to pluck mangoes, which are then shared out as meals. She spoke of taking a bath only every 7 or 10 days. She said the bandits would escort women and men, in batches, to bathe in the river and then watch them, especially the women, while they bathe naked. She said other sensitive things that can't be mentioned, but please include them in your prayers.

Leadership of Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT), Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), and Trade Union Congress (TUC) who embarked on a successful day two of the strike in Oyo State, called to protest the abduction of teachers and pupils of schools in Oriire Local Government Area (LGA) of the

State amid seeming inaction by relevant authorities. As happened on Monday too, some civil society organizations (CSOs) continued their protests in Ibadan, the Oyo State capital, over the same matter. In Federal Capital Territory (FCT), teachers and proprietors of private schools joined the protest. These are just as Governor Seyi Makinde of Oyo State warned against politicizing the abduction matter. The protest, which started from the NLC state council secretariat, Agodi, took the protesters to the Agodi State Government Secretariat, with teachers carrying placards bearing various inscriptions such as 'Bring Back Our Teachers and Students Now', 'Save Education and End Insecurity Now', 'Stop The Attack On Schools', and 'Let Teachers Teach in Peace', among others. Addressing the protesters, led by leaders of the NUT, NLC and National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), at the Governor's Office, Makinde called for a united approach at all levels of government as well as public support to curb insecurity in Nigeria.

Makinde, who appealed for trust on the issue, assured residents that security agencies had been actively working since the abductions took place. Emphasizing unity during national distress, Gov. Makinde urged stakeholders and Nigerians to avoid politicizing the incident, but focus on the safe return of the victims. Earlier, NLC Chairman in the state, Kayode Martins, and NUT Chairman, Comrade Fatai Hassan, had lamented the abduction of the teachers and school children, maintaining that teachers would continue their strike until the abductees were rescued. President of NANS, Babatunde Akinteye, stressed that synergy among tiers of government was critical

to fight "those threatening Nigeria's peace and safety." Later, Gov. Makinde met with the union leaders and called on governments at all levels to work together to confront "the present insecurity challenges and rescue the pupils and teachers abducted recently in Yawota and Ahoro Esinele communities of Oriire Local Government Area." In FCT, teachers and owners of private schools joined the protest. Displaying placards with several inscriptions urging government to work to rescue the abductees, the NUT members marched up to the headquarters of FCT Administration (FCTA), Area 11, Garki, which houses the Office of FCT Minister, Barrister Nyesom Wike. FCT NUT Chairman, Abdullahi Shafas, told newsmen that the state Council of NUT took to the streets in obedience to a directive from the NLC and NUT national bodies directing them to proceed on protests to send a message home to government to initiate actions to urgently free the teachers and students. Also, private school owners, under their umbrella National Association of Proprietors of Private Schools (NAPPS),

FCT chapter, demonstrated in solidarity with the captured teachers and students. After a protest at the National Assembly, a spokesman for the body, Mr. A.C. Degreat, wrote in a statement: “We reaffirm our position on the safety of our pupils and teachers.

We remain deeply concerned about those who are still under captivity and call for renewed efforts to secure their freedom. “We say NO to terrorism and all forms of insecurity that threaten education in our nation. “Schools must remain safe havens for learning, free from both internal and external threats. Every child deserves access to quality education in a secure and conducive environment, while every teacher deserves to carry out their duties without fear. “Together, we stand for educational development, school safety, and the protection of our students and teachers. In another development, suspected bandits invaded an off-campus hostel of Federal Polytechnic, Kaura Namoda, early on a Tuesday and abducted seven students. One escaped, leaving three male and three female students in captivity, authorities confirmed. Kaura Namoda LGA Chairman, Hon. Mannir Haidara Kaura, confirmed the attack in a chat with Daily Trust, which first reported the incident, saying security agencies have launched rescue operations. “The incident occurred, and security operatives are currently carrying out rescue operations to ensure the safe return of the kidnapped students,” Haidara said. Zamfara Police Command spokesperson, DSP Yazid Abubakar, said the attack occurred at a residence on the outskirts of Low-Cost area. “One of the students went outside during the night to urinate.

In the process, he left the door open. Coincidentally, bandits passing through the area entered the house and abducted the students,” Abubakar stated. Student Ibrahim Ahmad said one victim managed to escape, while six remain with the kidnapers. The Concerned Citizens of Kaura Namoda blamed notorious bandit leader Kachalla Bello Dansadiya and his gang. The group recalled previous abductions in the area, including two senior lecturers held for over two months despite ransom payment, and the kidnap of three residents plus a district head near a military base. “Alarmingly, all these victims are reportedly still being held in a well-known bandit camp around Dajin Yamma, yet no rescue operations have taken place. Where are the fighter jets and armored vehicles?” the group queried. DSP Abubakar confirmed the polytechnic campus itself “remains well secured” with “adequate security personnel, making it extremely difficult for bandits to penetrate.” He said the Command's Violent Crime Response Unit, VCRU, in collaboration with troops of Operation Fansan Yamma, has launched a coordinated rescue operation. “Our VCRU personnel, together with troops of Operation Fansan Yamma, are working to ensure the safe rescue of the abducted students,” Abubakar said.

The incident adds to growing fears over off-campus student safety in Zamfara, where armed groups continue to operate despite military offensives. Also on the same Tuesday bandits struck Dan Gulbi community in Tureta LGA again, killing an estimated 20 people barely 48 hours after a Sunday assault that left 17 dead. The back-to-back attacks have left at least 37 residents dead in two days. Residents said gunmen arrived on motorcycles in large numbers around 8:00 a.m. and opened fire indiscriminately. Villagers fled under gunfire. “People ran in different directions to save their lives,” a resident was quoted to have said in a report by News Express. Sources said the attackers remained in the village for hours after the shooting. They set several houses ablaze and many residents are still missing. The Tuesday attack mirrors Sunday's raid, when bandits on more than 150 motorcycles invaded the same community. That attack killed 17 people, including Sallah visitors, and looted about 20 shops. Victims were attacked while gathered under sheds. The twin assaults have triggered fresh calls for



RETIRED MAJOR GENERAL, RABE ABUBAKAR DIES IN BANDITS CAPTIVITY AS KATSINA MOURNS

security agencies to intervene in Tureta LGA, one of Sokoto's banditry hotspots. DSP Ahmad Rufai, Sokoto Police PPRO, confirmed the command received a distress call and mobilised personnel to Dan Gulbi. He said a comprehensive report was being awaited from officers on ground. Residents say delayed response has cost lives.

Another misfortune dogged immediate past Minister of Power, Bayo Adelabu, as unidentified gunmen abducted one of his sisters and her 12-year-old twin sons in Ibadan, the Oyo State capital. Reports said the 43-year-old former employee of Central Bank of Nigeria (CBB) was making preparations to join her husband in the United States (US) soon, before the enemies of society struck. The incident is coming few weeks after the ex-Minister, who resigned his

appointment, lost the primary for governor under the All Progressives Congress (APC) in a move which shocked not just him but his supporters. He lost to Sharafadeen Alli. A press statement by one of the former Minister's spokesmen, Femi Awogboro, gave further details of the kidnap incident, which came as teachers and pupils of schools in Oriire Local Government Area (LGA) of the State, dubbed Pacesetter State, are still languishing in the forests at the hands of terrorists following their abductions early last month. Since Monday, labour and civil society organizations (CSOs) have maintained steady protests in Ibadan, urging official actions towards effecting the release of the victims. President Bola Tinubu, in turn, ordered the immediate recruitment and deployment of 1000 forest guards to that end while Governor Seyi Makinde addressed the protesters yesterday, assuring of safe release of the abductees. In the statement by Awogboro, the abducted woman was identified as Mrs Olaide Busayo Adegoke John-Paul, with the male twins identified as Peter and Paul. According to the statement, the gunmen struck as the children's mother was on her way to drop them (twins) at school about 7:30am. The statement read: "The family of Chief Adebayo Adedun, former Minister of Power and leading gubernatorial

aspirant of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Oyo State, wishes to formally confirm the unfortunate kidnapping of his younger sister, Mrs Olaide Busayo Adegoke John-Paul, alongside her twin sons, Peter and Paul, in the early hours of Wednesday, June 3, 2026. "Mrs John-Paul, aged 43, was reportedly abducted by armed gunmen at about 7:30 a.m. while on her way to drop her children at school in Ibadan. "The abductors also forcefully took away her 12-year-old twin sons who were with her at the time of the incident. However, reports reaching our desk indicated the men of the Nigeria police Force have carried out a sting operation to rescue the victims while those arrested has been charged to court



Former vice president, Atiku Abubakar and the Presidential Candidate of the ADC in the 2027 election has raised the alarm over the worsening insecurity in the country, warning that no one is safe under the President Bola Tinubu's administration. While reacting to the abduction of the sister and twin nephews of former Minister of Power, Chief Adebayo Adedun, in Ibadan, Oyo State Atiku implored the government to jettison its reactive approach to security issues. He described it as particularly shocking that such a brazen abduction occurred in the heart of Ibadan at the bustling Challenge Bus Stop, one of the city's busiest and most recognizable locations. According to him, the fact that kidnappers could strike in such a prominent public space without fear of interception speaks volumes about the worsening security situation in the country. He observed that while millions of ordinary Nigerians have endured the horrors of kidnapping for years, "this latest incident raises a question that the Tinubu administration can no longer evade: if government officials have become desensitized to the suffering of ordinary

citizens, should they not at least be alarmed when insecurity reaches the doorstep of one of their own?" The former Vice President lamented that across the country, families were being subjected to unimaginable trauma as kidnappers and other criminal elements operate with growing audacity. "Schoolchildren are abducted from classrooms, farmers are driven from their lands, travelers are kidnapped on highways, and entire communities are held hostage by fear. Yet, despite these grim realities, the government's response has too often been characterized by excuses, propaganda, and palliatives rather than decisive action." Atiku noted that kidnappers do not ask for party membership cards before striking. They do not distinguish between APC members and opposition supporters. They do not care whether their victims are ministers, former ministers, traders, teachers, students, or farmers. The same insecurity that has turned the lives of ordinary Nigerians into a daily nightmare is now knocking on doors many in government may have assumed were beyond its reach. He stated that the tragedy should serve as a wake-up call for those entrusted with the security of the nation. "If the endless cries of ordinary Nigerians were not enough to spur this government into action, one would have expected that an

attack affecting the family of a former member of the administration would finally underscore the urgency of the crisis. Sadly, insecurity has become so pervasive that no one is truly insulated from its consequences." The former Vice President stressed that a government that cannot guarantee the safety of its citizens is failing in its most fundamental obligation.

The United Nations has expressed deep concern over the recent abductions of schoolchildren and teachers in Oyo and Borno states, calling for their immediate and safe release while urging Nigerian authorities to intensify efforts to secure schools nationwide. UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Mohamed Fall, condemned the attacks, which also resulted in the killing of two educators. He described the incidents as a grave assault on children's right to education and safety. "Educational institutions must not become targets" Fall said the continued captivity of the schoolchildren and their teachers was deeply troubling, stressing that schools must remain safe spaces for learning rather than targets of violence and fear. "The recent incidents underscore the urgent need to

strengthen the protection of children, educators and learning environments,” he said. The UN official acknowledged ongoing efforts by the Nigerian government and security agencies but insisted more must be done to secure the swift return of all abductees and ensure perpetrators are brought to justice. Children must not be victims of violence. Fall emphasized that children should never become victims of armed conflict or criminal violence, noting that attacks on schools threaten not only lives but also the future of communities and the nation's development.

He reaffirmed the UN's commitment to supporting initiatives aimed at creating safe, inclusive and violence-free learning environments across Nigeria, stressing the importance of protecting children's rights and guaranteeing access to education in conditions of safety and dignity. The UN also called for full implementation of Nigeria's Minimum Standards for Safe Schools, stronger emergency response systems and improved use of data-driven strategies to identify and mitigate threats against schools and vulnerable children. Fall made the remarks following a meeting with a delegation from the National Safe Schools Response Coordination Centre led by Commandant Samuel Umanah. The meeting focused on the worsening security situation affecting schools and allowed

was able to rescue his wife but not without bullets wound. The truth is that nobody is safe anymore. According to Engr Salawudeen Abiola the Managing Director of a private construction company based in Abuja 'All hands must be on deck to dislodge these monsters. It is not about being a big gun in Government today and feeling that you are safe, it is about doing the right thing to ensure that the country is safe for everybody. What is befalling others today can befall us or our love ones' tomorrow if we fail to do the right thing when we have the opportunity to act as a leader. Anyone can be a victim of bad leadership irrespective of your status or position. This is why it is regrettable today that while these monsters and bandits are kidnapping and killing innocent Nigerians our politicians are busy campaigning and jostling for relevance for 2027 elections. Politicking has become more important to them than the lives of the average Nigerian. So sad and unfortunate. School abductions have become a recurring security challenge in Nigeria, where armed gangs often target pupils for ransom. While such attacks have been more common in the north, recent incidents have raised concerns about growing insecurity in parts of the south-west. Many Nigerian citizens have at one time and the other accused the Federal Government for hobnobbing with terrorist and paying them ransom which they argued has continued to empower them to be more daring. Even though the Government has consistently denied these allegations there is ample evidence to prove



the UN to express solidarity with affected families, school authorities and communities grappling with trauma. The latest incidents have renewed concerns over school safety in Nigeria, where repeated attacks on educational institutions have disrupted learning, displaced thousands of students and heightened fears among parents and teachers.

Recently a retired Army General, Major-General Rabe Abubakar a former Military Defence Spokesman between 2015 and 2017 was abducted with his wife recently while travelling to Katsina state in his car. Unfortunately, he died in the hands of terrorists after failed attempt by the Military to rescue him. It was after he was buried that the Military

that in most cases where Government negotiate and captives are released there are usually no casualties on both sides. It ends up like a pally affair. The question that readily comes to mind remains, are the terrorists in business or they are doing it for fun? However, when individuals are kidnapped the ransom requested by the terrorists from family members are mind boggling. So who is fooling who? Nothings can be hidden forever. Someday sometime the whole truth will come out. Whatever it may be what Nigerians are yearning for is an end to insecurity in any guise so that peace and tranquility will return to the country as this is the basic requirement for any meaningful and sustainable development'.