

Christian Awareness Initiative of Nigeria (CHAIN)
Report on the attack on the Gidan Waya
Community in Kaduna State, Nigeria
11-12 November 2025

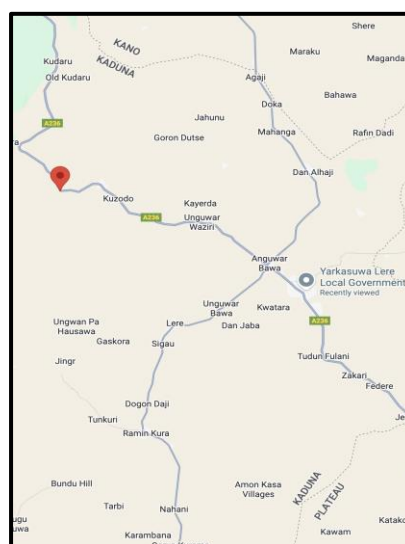
Report Date: 28 November 2025

"My call to my community is that we need to wake up. There is no way we will fold our hands and people will come and kill us, people will come and kidnap us, people will come and render us homeless ... We need to cry to the government. We cannot continue like this. I want to plead with our security agencies and government to help us."

~ **Mr. Torentikazah Isaac**, Gidan Waya youth community leader

Incident Summary

- **Coordinated attack:** On 11–12 November 2025, 80–120 Fulani militants attacked Gidan Waya (Kaduna State), killing 4, injuring 3, and kidnapping 13. All victims were Christians, including an Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA) pastor. The militants demand a 200 million Naira (~\$138,300 USD) ransom and are still holding the captives.
- **No security response:** Despite repeated distress calls, Nigerian security forces did not respond during the attack, highlighting severe gaps in rural protection.
- **Escalating insecurity:** Violence in the Middle Belt has shifted from farmer-herder clashes to organized assaults on whole communities, worsening displacement and food insecurity in a major maize-producing region.
- **Recommended Actions:** 1) Press Nigerian authorities for a credible investigation, improved rural security, and rapid-response capacity. 2) Support humanitarian relief for victims, economic development, early-warning systems, and community peacebuilding to address root-causes of the violence.



Location of Gidan Waya (Coordinates: 10°30'49.6"N 8°28'19.2"E)

Area Background

Yarkasuwa is the seat of the power for the local ward where Gidan Waya is located. The ward is part of the larger Lere Local Government Area (LGA) of Kaduna State, Nigeria. It is also the seat of the traditional ruler of the Akurmi (Kurama) ethnic group, known as the Bugwam Akurmi.

The town is predominantly inhabited by the Akurmi people, who speak the T'kurmi language and are known as "Kurama" in Hausa. The Akurmi are known to be a peaceful people. They are primarily crop farmers, and the area, including Yarkasuwa, is recognized as one of the greatest sources of maize in Nigeria. Sugarcane production is also a major economic activity in these localities. It is a religiously mixed ethnic group with about 15% Muslims, 20% followers of Traditional African Religions, and 65% Christians.

Evolution of Security Challenges

Like many parts of the Middle Belt and Northern Nigeria, Yarkasuwa and nearby communities face persistent insecurity ranging from banditry to large-scale attacks. What began as sporadic disputes between herders and farmers has escalated into organized, premeditated attacks on entire villages.

Community members report that widespread poverty, high youth unemployment, and limited economic opportunities fuel recruitment into criminal groups, while the absence of effective security in rural areas allows armed actors to operate freely. As a result, armed banditry and mass kidnappings have increased, causing loss of life, trauma, and the displacement of farming households. These attacks restrict access to farmlands and worsen food insecurity. Local Nigerian military forces remain overstretched and under-equipped, lacking rapid-response assets such as attack helicopters, which makes intervention in the region's difficult terrain challenging.

The Incident of 11 and 12 November

On 13 November 2025, a CHAIN researcher interviewed three community leaders in Gidan Waya. They reported that on 11 November 2025 at approximately 11:00pm Fulani militants laid siege to Gidan Waya. Survivors identified the attackers by their use of the Fulfulde language, long kaftan garments, and typical Fulani hats.

The attack lasted from the late hours of Tuesday 11 November 2025 to the early hours of Wednesday 12 November 2025. Some villagers reported hearing unusual movement in the bush the night before, but there was no organized alert system or military/police presence at the time. When the gunmen arrived, a few local youths, armed only with sticks, stones, and a few 'Dane guns', tried to chase the attackers away, but they were quickly overwhelmed. There was no security intervention to protect the villagers during this attack despite several calls made to the security agencies by one of our interviewee's Mr. Torantikazah. The Fulani militants entered Yarkasuwa with some riding on motorcycles

and others entering on foot. During the attack the gunmen shouted “Allahu Akbar”. The attackers surrounded the village, to try to cut it off from outside help and prevent anyone from escaping while they carried out the assault. They first surrounded the settlement, blocking the main road and the paths leading to nearby farms. Then they launched coordinated bursts of gunfire at houses, the market, and the community center, forcing residents to flee into the surrounding fields and bushes. After the shooting, they looted homes and abducted 13 people who are listed below in this report, including ECWA Pastor

Rev. Istifanus Dungu. One community member shared that, “The bandits stole over 10 motorcycles, seized at gunpoint... Many of those injured were rushed to Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital (ABUTH) Zaria and also Ikara General Hospital, located in the headquarters of the local government.” Mr. Torentikazah said that this attack was “the first in those communities aside from the menial farmer and herders’ clashes that is often resolved with the local authority or the police.”

Organization of the Attackers: The attackers appeared well-organized. They operated in small units, each with a designated leader who coordinated movements via hand signals. Witnesses described one individual giving orders in Fulfulde.

The weapons used included AK-47 rifles and locally made ‘Dane guns’ were also observed. Some militants carried machetes and knives for close-quarter violence. The estimates of the attackers vary from 80 to 120 fighters, who split into two groups and entered from opposite directions. They entered Yarkasuwa from the northwest, near the Fulani temporary settlement of Gidan-Sarki, which is about 15 kilometres away from Gidan Waya. The militants withdrew southeastward toward the dense bush near the River Kaduna, where motorcycles were waiting. Mr. Torentikazah said that some from the community “believe there are informants [from the local community]” who helped the Fulani militants choose targets who had some cash from their farming.

Livelihood Impact: The attackers stole food and valuables and destroyed crops on local farms. This may lead to hunger and severe economic hardship, as the community depends almost entirely on agriculture. Damage to fields will hinder the next planting season and threaten community stability.

Current State of Kidnapped Individuals: According to Rev. Fr. Jonah Bashini Amos, whose sister (Mrs. Catherine Shitu) is among the kidnapped victims, the kidnapped individuals remain in captivity and are being held for ransom. The last contact between Gidan Waya community leaders and the kidnappers occurred on Friday, 21 November 2025. In that communication, the militants said the victims had been divided into three groups. The abductors demanded a ransom of 200 million naira (~\$138,300 USD). The community offered 17 million naira (~\$11,750 USD), which was rejected by the kidnappers. No further communication has occurred since 21 November.

Interviewees:

- **Torentikazah Isaac** – Gidan Waya community youth leader

- **Mr. Victor Galadima** – Peace and conflict resolution expert
- **Rev. Fr. Jonah Amos Bashini** – Catholic priest originally from Gidan Waya

Recommendations

- Relevant authorities and stakeholders should publicly condemn the attack.
- Nigerian authorities should launch an immediate investigation and prosecute the perpetrators.
- Authorities and civil society groups should provide relief and support to affected families.
- Government, community leaders, and civil society should address underlying religious tensions and promote peaceful coexistence.

News Reports on the Incident

1. [Amnesty International Nigeria – X Statement on the Gidan Waya Attack](#)
2. [Sahara Reporters – Terrorists Attack Kaduna Community](#)
3. [Daily Post – Bandits Kill Four, Abduct ECWA Pastor, 11 Others in Kaduna](#)
4. [Sahara Reporters - Amnesty International Condemns Rising Terrorist Attacks in Kaduna](#)
5. [Politics Nigeria – Amnesty International Indicts Nigerian Authorities After Bandits Kill Four, Abduct Children in Kaduna](#)
6. [Akurmi Development Association Press Statement – FB Post Gidan Waya Attack](#)

Details of Victims

THOSE KILLED				
NO.	NAME INITIALS	RELIGION	SEX	AGE
1.	Markus Ishaya	Christian	Male	Elderly
2.	Promise Korau	Christian	Male	18
3.	Hycent Timothy	Christian	Male	19
4.	Mato Shagori	Christian	Male	40
THOSE INJURED				
5.	Kephas Iliya	Christian	Male	23
6.	Philimon Daniel	Christian	Male	25
7.	Ezra Samson	Christian	Male	27
THOSE KIDNAPPED				
8.	Rev Istifanus Dungu	Christian	Male	58
9.	Habibu Yahaya	Christian	Male	42

10.	Love Markus	Christian	Female	38
11.	Mummy Markus	Christian	Female	49
12.	Catherine Shitu	Christian	Female	40
13.	Ibrahim Bagobari	Christian	Male	46
14.	John Ibrahim	Christian	Male	15
15.	Christiana Dungu	Christian	Female	14
16.	Prince Dungu	Christian	Female	13
17.	Miss Dauda	Christian	Female	Unspecified
18.	Mrs Rev Danbala Inuwa	Christian	Female	38
19.	Lois Markus	Christian	Female	25
20.	Yohanna Umaru	Christian	Male	30

SUMMARY:

The Killed:

Males: 4
Females: 0
Children: 0

Total Killed: 4

The Injured:

Males: 3
Females: 0
Children: 0

Total Injured: 3

The Kidnapped:

Males: 4
Females: 6
Children: 3

Total Kidnapped: 13