News 23 November 2026 | English article

12 Worshippers Kidnapped on Their Way to Sunday Mass in Kurmin Wali Nigeria - 9 Still Held

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"Again and again"

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

Armed gunmen abducted 12 Christians on Sunday morning, 15 November 2026, as they were heading to church in Kurmin Wali village, Kajuru Local Government Area, Kaduna State, Nigeria, at about 9:14 a.M. Three of the abducted worshippers later escaped and returned home, but nine remain in the hands of their captors. They join five residents seized in two October attacks, so 14 Kurmin Wali residents are now held captive.

Imagine setting out for church on a Sunday morning, dressed for worship, walking the familiar dirt path you have walked a hundred times. The sun is up, the village is quiet, and the service is about to begin. Then armed men appear on that path, and the morning turns into a nightmare. That is what happened in Kurmin Wali, and for the nine who are still missing, the nightmare has not ended.

Village head Isiaku Danazumi confirmed the attack, and the Kaduna State chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria, Rev. Caleb Bawa Ma'aji, said the community is being attacked again and again. His words carry the exhaustion of a people who have pleaded for protection and recieved too little of it. When a community leader says "again and again", he is telling the world that this was not a one-off tragedy, but a pattern.

The same village was devastated in January 2026, when more than 170 worshippers were abducted during church services. That attack is one of the largest mass kidnappings of Christians in recent Nigerian history, and it hangs over Kurmin Wali like a shadow. The villagers who returned to church after January did so knowing the risk, and on 15 November that risk found them again on the road to Mass.

Kurmin Wali Kidnapping: Vigilantes With Dane Guns Faced AK-47s For Two Hours

When the gunmen struck, local vigilantes fought back. They were armed only with dane guns and bows, while the attackers carried AK-47s, yet they held the fight for over two hours before the attackers retreated. It is a detail that deserves to be remembered: ordinary villagers, with hunting guns and bows, standing between their neighbours and men with automatic rifles. They could not save everyone, but they refused to stand aside.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

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