Persecution 26 November 2026 | English article

Latest: 9 Christians Still Captive After Kaduna Abduction

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

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"We were in church when one of our scouts raised the alarm that Fulani Ethnic Militia were encircling us."

(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

Nine Christians are still being held captive after gunmen seized 12 worshippers during a Sunday service in Kurmin Wali community, Kaduna State, on 15 November 2026. Three of the twelve later escaped and made it home. The other nine are still in the hands of their abductors, and a fresh update from International Christian Concern on 26 November confirms they have not been freed.

It was 9:14 on a Sunday morning. People were heading to church, some already inside, when a scout raised the alarm.

Farmer Sylvanus Dangana, 45, was in the service when the warning came. He told reporters what the scout shouted as armed men closed in around the village.

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What happened next was not a quiet kidnapping. It was a battle. Local vigilantes grabbed their dane guns - locally made pipe guns - and their bows and arrows, and stood against attackers carrying AK-47s.

The gunfire went on for more than two hours. The vigilantes fought until the gunmen pulled back. But when the shooting stopped, twelve villagers were gone, taken with the retreating attackers.

The Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Kaduna chapter, disclosed the abduction on Tuesday 17 November, two days after the attack. Its state chairman, Rev. Caleb Bawa Ma'aji, said armed men invaded the community while residents were attending church and took twelve worshippers.

Village head Isiaku Danazumi gave the timing in plain terms: the raid struck at about 9:14 a.M. As residents were heading to church. He added a detail that makes the picture worse.

The nine join five other residents abducted in two separate attacks in October, bringing the total number of Kurmin Wali residents currently held captive to fourteen.

Fourteen people from one small community. Fourteen families waiting for a phone call, a ransom demand, or a knock on the door.

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?

READ THE FULL STORY

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