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Widow Afordia Takes Plea to Downing Street Today

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

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"Afordia, a Nigerian widow whose husband was shot dead by Boko Haram militants in 2014, carried a petition signed by more than a million people to Downing Street on Thursday, 12 November 2026"

(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

Afordia, a Nigerian widow whose husband was shot dead by Boko Haram militants in 2014, carried a petition signed by more than a million people to Downing Street on Thursday, 12 November 2026. The Arise Africa petition, handed in by an Open Doors delegation, calls on the UK government to act for protection, justice and restoration for Christians facing violence across sub-Saharan Africa. Open Doors says an average of 12 Christians are killed for their faith every day in the region.

Twelve years ago, Afordia watched gunmen shoot her husband, Isaac Inuwa, dead. He was killed on 29 October 2014 after he told the militants he was a Christian. She has lived with that morning ever since, and on Thursday she walked it to the door of the British prime minister.

The hand-in was the public peak of a campaign that has been gathering names for months. More than a million people around the world put their names to the petition, and the delegation carried it into Downing Street as a single, plain demand: Christians in sub-Saharan Africa should be able to worship, work and live without fear of being killed for it.

Afordia Petition Handed In At Downing Street November 12

Open Doors organised the delegation and the petition drive. The charity's research sits behind the campaign's central number, the average of 12 Christians killed every day across sub-Saharan Africa, and its reports have tracked the violence in Nigeria and the wider region for years. The petition asks the UK government to press for protection for vulnerable Christian communities, for justice for the victims of attacks, and for restoration for the families and churches left behind.

Afordia's presence gave the numbers a face. She is not a campaigner by trade. She is a widow from Nigeria who lost her husband in a single act of violence and then chose to carry that loss into the open, first to the churches and prayer meetings that support the Arise Africa campaign, and now to the street where British governments are held to account.

The timing matters. The hand-in came in a week when Nigeria's suffering was already in the headlines. Just days earlier, a Catholic priest was ambushed and left unconscious on a road in Benue State, as Latest: Catholic Priest Peter Kwen Left Unconscious in Benue Attack reported, and gunmen had killed five Christians in two villages in Plateau State, as Latest: 5 Christians Killed in Nigeria Plateau Attacks as Gunmen Strike Two Villages reported.

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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