Christian News 15 November 2026 | English article

Nigeria Catholic Bishops Warn Christian Persecution Is Getting Worse Today

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

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"Strategic Engagements in Addressing Christian Persecution in Nigeria: Toward Coordinated Response"

(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

Catholic bishops in Nigeria warned this weekend that violent persecution of Christians has grown worse over the last twenty years, with the Vatican's envoy joining them in Owerri to say the time for politics and pretence is over. The warning came at the 18th National Conference of the Association of Papal Knights and Medalists in Nigeria (APKMN) in Owerri, Imo State, held under the theme "Strategic Engagements in Addressing Christian Persecution in Nigeria: Toward Coordinated Response". Vanguard reported the bishops' alarm on Sunday 15 November, only hours after the conference, while the Daily Post carried the first accounts late on Saturday night.

Seven out of every ten Christians killed for their faith anywhere in the world last year were Nigerians. That is the number behind the bishops' warning.

Open Doors' World Watch List 2026 records that 3,490 of the 4,849 Christians killed worldwide for their faith - 72 per cent - were Nigerians. It is a figure that turns an abstract debate about persecution into a count of graves, and it is why the bishops in Owerri spoke in the bluntest terms they have used in years.

Archbishop Crotty: Violent Persecution More Pronounced In Nigeria

Archbishop Michael Francis Crotty, the Apostolic Nuncio to Nigeria and the Vatican's envoy in the country, told the conference that Christians had suffered persecution in different forms throughout Nigeria's history. But the violent forms of persecution, he said, had become more pronounced in the last two decades.

"The time for politics and pretence over Christian persecution was over," Bishop Wilfred Chikpa Anagbe of Makurdi said, in words echoed by the conference's National Chaplain, Rev. Fr. Michael Adegbola. The two men were speaking for a room full of Catholic knights and medalists - lay men and women honoured by the Pope for service to the Church - who had gathered to ask what a coordinated response to the violence should look like.

Crotty urged Christians to respond through democratic engagement ahead of elections, and said ending the persecution was imperative. His message was practical rather than only pastoral: faith, he argued, has to show up at the ballot box as well as in the pew, because the protection of Christians in Nigeria will ultimately be decided by the country's laws and its leaders.

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

Continue on FaithStories -- the complete article, with sources and related stories:
https://faithstories.onrender.com/articles/news-848.html?utm_source=pdf_guide&utm_medium=organic_pdf

More from FaithStories

FaithStories - Home
https://faithstories.onrender.com/

(French) Le pape Léon XIV nomme Mgr Martin Boucar Tine évêque de Thiès
https://faithstories.onrender.com/articles/fr/news-857.html

(Portuguese) Líderes evangélicos buscam diálogo com governo Lula após eleição de 2026
https://faithstories.onrender.com/articles/pt/news-856.html

(Spanish) Informe revela 33 ataques islamistas en España: 19 contra cristianos
https://faithstories.onrender.com/articles/es/news-855.html