News 17 November 2026 | English article

Latest: More Than 30 Christians Killed in ADF Attack on Cantine in DR Congo

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

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"Fighters of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) stormed the village of Cantine in the Madiwe sector of Beni territory, North Kivu Province, in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, during the night of Thursday 5 November into the early hours of Friday 6 November 2026, killing more than 30 civilians"

(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

Fighters of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) stormed the village of Cantine in the Madiwe sector of Beni territory, North Kivu Province, in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, during the night of Thursday 5 November into the early hours of Friday 6 November 2026, killing more than 30 civilians. Homes were set on fire, a health centre was destroyed and patients were killed, according to the United Nations aid coordination office. The International Christian Concern described the dead as Christian civilians.

The attack began about 11 p.M. Gunfire tore through the dark, houses went up in flames, and families ran for the forest with nothing. By morning, Cantine was counting its dead - and the count kept rising as search teams moved through the burned-out streets.

Justin Paluku, president of the Civil Society Forces Vives of Madiwe, confirmed that the provisional death toll stood at more than 30 civilians. Local media reports put the number at 33, with more than 50 houses set ablaze. The Xinhua news agency, citing Congolese security sources, also reported at least 30 dead, including civilians, security personnel and civil-society members. An earlier report had put the toll at 24, and the Islamic State's propaganda arm Amaq claimed the militants killed 60 Christians - a claim reported as the group's own assertion, not as a confirmed fact.

Paluku's words after the attack carry the weight of a man who has said them too many times before. Christian civilians, he said through the International Christian Concern, cannot continue living like prisoners in their own communities, constantly wondering when armed men will strike again. For the survivors, the immediate concern is no longer what tomorrow will bring, but whether they will survive another night.

The attack struck a community already fighting a second enemy. About 180 patients were evacuated from a local health facility, including suspected Ebola cases and one confirmed case, as the violence forced the hospital to empty. In a region battling a disease outbreak, the gunmen did not only kill people. They scattered the sick, broke the chain of care, and turned a health emergency into a manhunt through the bush.

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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