

## Pray for the Persecuted Christians in Nigeria



Evangelical Population: 48,806,250 (30.8 %)

Total Population: 158,258,917

Missions vision was birthed in the 1970s through revival among university students. This vision has blossomed into a movement accounting for over 5,000 Nigerian missionaries at home and abroad, helping lead the way for Africa-wide mission mobilization.

However, in the Muslim North and Central Nigeria Christians suffer immensely either from biased Sharia courts in Muslim majority states, deadly raids by Muslim Fulani herdsmen, along with attacks from the Jihadist group Boko Haram.

Thousands of Christians are killed and injured every year.

Sadly, the Nigerian Central government has turned a blind eye to the problems caused by the Fulani herdsmen. When it comes to Boko Haram, the government has a mixed record, but is largely unable to destroy it completely.

Pray that the Government finally stops turning a blind eye to the problems caused by the Fulani herdsmen and take action against them. Pray that the government will also take better action against Boko Haram. Also pray for those who spread the gospel in Northern Nigeria that they may be able to do the Great Commission.

## Bishops Wife and Church Secretary Freed from Captivity in Kano, Nigeria

**03/24/2020 Nigeria** (International Christian Concern) – Saratu Zubairu, the wife of Bari Diocese Bishop Idris Ado Zubairu, and a diocesan secretary identified as Deborah were both released on Friday March 20 by their abductors. The two women were taken by gunmen on March 10, when the assailants had entered Bari village to loot and steal. Upon finding the two women, the gunmen forcefully took them and likely contacted their families for ransom.

Kidnappings for ransom in Nigeria have become very common, especially in Northern Nigeria. According to Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW), these abductions have increased for Church members and leaders over the past several years. The abductions are not limited to only Christians however. Muslims have also been targeted in these kind of kidnappings for ransom.

CSW says that despite religion, abductees from both sides say that those who take them are most often of Fulani background or at least speak the Fulbe language. This report coincides with reports that radicalized Fulani groups are attacking and killing farmers throughout the Middle Belt of Nigeria. These reports have been argued against by the Nigerian government and multiple Fulani organizations such as Myetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria, who say that these attacks are perpetrated by bandits and criminals, not by one group of people. Yet victims of attacks almost always agree that they were attacked by Fulani who have more sophisticated weapons and who had recently entered the area with their cattle. The Nigerian government must do a better job at tracking the movements of these groups and stopping these types of attacks from taking place. Please pray that these two women would heal and remain safe.