



## **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT URGED TO END SPINELESS KILLING OF INNOCENT NIGERIANS**

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### **ABUJA, NIGERIA -**

The Federal Government has been called upon to bring to an immediate end the spineless killings of Nigerians in different parts of Nigeria by Fulani Cattle herdsman and other criminals in the country; as the present situation portends a great danger for the peaceful coexistence of the country.

The call was contained in a Press Statement issued by the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria (CBCN); and signed by Archbishop Ignatius Kaigama of Jos and Bishop William Avenya of Gboko, President and Secretary of the Conference respectively. The statement was titled: On the Recurrent Wave of Violence and the Cheapening of Human Lives in different parts of our Country.

According to the Bishops, the country appears to be under siege from many forces as “innocent citizens in different communities across the nation are brutally attacked and their resources of livelihood mindlessly destroyed”. They continued: “property worth millions of Naira, including places of worship, schools, hospitals and business enterprises are touched and turned to ashes”.

While appreciating the efforts of the government for the successes recorded so far against the Boko Haram terrorist activities; the Bishops noted that the present situation make the people in different parts of the country to live in

perpetual fear, anxiety and desperation. They declared: “We are appalled by the repeated occurrence of other ugly incidents that are tearing communities apart and generating tensions”.

They called on the government to use all available means of security and facilities to put an end to the menaces of brutish and inhuman activities of the Fulani Cattle herdsman marauding in different parts of the country; the atrocities of the Boko Haram terrorist group in the Northeast of the country, incessant increase in kidnapping and the dehumanizing activities of kidnapers as well as abuses in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP’s) camps in some parts of the country.

The Bishops declared: “since the repeated outbreaks of bloody conflicts in different communities across the nation, we observe with great sadness that thousands of innocent people have been hacked to down in cold blood.” They added: “Others have been exposed to situations of unspeakable suffering. Many others have been crushed and silenced, while their rights and dignity are trampled with impunity.

Noting that with some degree of political will, government can take adequate steps to put an end to the human tragedies and save the country from the calamities of a civil war; the Bishops warned that “it is wiser and easier to prevent war than to stop it after it has broken out.”

They concluded: “We therefore urge all aggrieved parties to seek reconciliation through dialogue and mutual forgiveness. Above all, we appeal to them to beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks (cf. Is 2:4).