

NMFUK condemns Kano bombings, faults delay in government response

The Nigerian Muslim Forum UK condemns in strong terms the violent attacks in the city of Kano. The Forum condemns the atrocious act in its entirety and decries the unjustifiable loss of lives and destruction of property worth millions of naira.

Media reports suggest that that the group Jama'atu ahlussunnah liddaawati wal jihad, also known as *Boko Haram*, have claimed responsibility for the bombings, as a revenge against the arrest of their members by officials in Kano State. Islam forbids the killing of innocent people and has made provisions for the settling of grievances and therefore as Muslims we should continue to abide by the teachings of our religion and emulate the example of our Prophet Muhammad (SAW). The Forum therefore condemns the attack in every sense and the resort to violence by any group. The killings were clearly not done in the name of Islam.

“Muslims in all parts of the country need to abide by the teachings of our religion (against violence) and act within the precincts of the law of the land. We must also remain vigilant as the situation is still delicate,” says the Amir of NMFUK Dr Muhammad Jameel Yusha’u.

The NMF has also observed that it took nearly 24 hours for the government to make an official statement in which it downplayed the casualty figures to seven when even the Red Cross and others involved in rescue efforts put the number of lives lost at more than 120. We therefore urge the government of Nigeria to act appropriately to stem the situation, as violence often perpetuated serially against innocent people in the country is now a commonplace. The government needs not be reminded that it has a duty to protect the lives of Nigerians in any part of the country

It is worthy to note that there has been unequal media coverage of violent happenings like this one especially where the victims are mainly Muslim. While the media, local and international, devote so much attention to killings in which the victims are Christians, the case of the Kano attacks is a clear example of a departure as there has not been similar show of enthusiasm particularly by the international media. The NMF calls on journalists to live up to their calling and be fair, balanced and objective in reporting such atrocities so that international community can be fully informed of the happenings in Nigeria.

Signed,

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