

# Pray for Nigeria

**6–12 February 2022**



Leah Sharibu

Throughout December 2021, CSW staff members met every day at noon to pray for our colleagues in CSW-Nigeria, as the security situation in the country has continued to deteriorate nationwide.

We continue to receive reports of deadly attacks by resurgent terrorists and diverse armed groups primarily of Fulani origin, and are concerned that the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), Boko Haram fighters who continue to resist ISWAP's authority following the death of its former leader Abubakar Shekau, and the al Qaeda affiliate Ansaru have extended operations by building alliances with Fulani militia in central Nigeria, where predominantly Christian communities continue to endure lethal violence and abductions. This insufficiently addressed violence has metastasised, with predominantly Fulani armed groups not only terrorising Hausa Muslim communities in the northwest, but also increasingly attacking communities in southern states.

The situation is grave, but we believe that the prayers of the righteous are powerful and effective (James 5:16). Join us in praying for Nigeria this week. Find out more at [csw.org.uk/nigeria](https://csw.org.uk/nigeria)

## **Sunday 6 February**

We are so thankful for our courageous colleagues at CSW-Nigeria who work tirelessly to advance the right to religion or belief in Nigeria through advocacy, supporting victims of violent attacks, and pioneering interfaith initiatives. Today, let us pray for protection for them and their families as they go about their vital work, often at great personal risk.

## **Monday 7 February**

The Nigerian government has repeatedly failed to uphold the constitutional right to freedom of religion or belief and has not adequately empowered the army to protect vulnerable communities against targeted attacks. In January the violent groups in the north-east and central regions were officially designated terrorists. Pray that the federal and state governments of Nigeria will now prioritise bringing an end to every source of violence and terror in the country.

## **Tuesday 8 February**

As violence by armed Fulani assailants continues to rise in southern Nigerian states, pray for protection for targeted communities, justice, and an end to the expansion of this deadly violence. Use Psalm 74 to guide your prayers, remembering God is able to work miracles in all situations.

## **Wednesday 9 February**

This month marks four years since Christian schoolgirl Leah Sharibu was kidnapped by ISWAP terrorists. She remains in captivity for refusing to renounce her faith. CSW supporters around the world gathered online to campaign for Leah's release and 'Sing for Freedom' last October. Pray for Leah and her family, and that the Nigerian authorities would act swiftly to secure Leah's release.

## **Thursday 10 February**

Pray that the Nigerian authorities would implement the Safe Schools Initiative, which aims to protect the right to an education, including by safeguarding students throughout the country from the threat of abduction and terror attacks.

## **Friday 11 February**

Pray for God's comfort and provision for the wife and children of Rev Yohanna Shuaibu, the chair of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) who died from wounds inflicted during a mob attack on his home, and for those of Reverends Dauda Bature and Silas Yakubu Ali, who were killed by abductors and Fulani militia respectively. Pray for protection for church leaders and congregations as they are increasingly targeted.

## **Saturday 12 February**

*Father God, once again our hearts break for communities in Nigeria who continue to face relentless violence on a daily basis. We pray for all those who have lost loved ones, for the safe return of all abductees, and for repentance in the hearts of those perpetrating such acts. Amen*