

Prayer Diary: Nigeria

11-17 August 2024



Leah Sharibu

On 14 May we marked Leah Sharibu's 21st birthday with a protest in Kaduna State; a panel discussion on X (Twitter); and a worldwide wave of prayer, culminating in a global online prayer event led by CSW-Nigeria.

Many readers will know that Leah was the sole Christian in a group of 110 girls abducted from their school in Dapchi in February 2018. She was denied her freedom because she refused to renounce her faith, and is one of hundreds currently held in terrorist captivity in Nigeria.

As one of our supporters wrote: 'Our hearts are sad, but we believe in the power of God, that God will set all these girls free!'

Find out more at csw.org.uk/nigeria

Sunday 11 August

Please continue to pray for Leah's release. Ask God to comfort her mother Rebecca, her father Nathan and her brother Donald, and that next year they would celebrate Leah's birthday together in the light of his peace and protection.

Monday 12 August

Give thanks for the rescue of 137 children abducted from their school in Kuriga, Kaduna State on 7 March, and 24 students abducted from Confluence University of Science and Technology in Kogi State on 9 May. Pray that they would recover from their ordeal quickly, and for the rescue of the countless individuals who remain in terrorist captivity.

Tuesday 13 August

Violence perpetrated by Fulani militia continues relentlessly in central Nigeria, especially in Benue, Kaduna and Plateau states. Religious leaders, congregations and churches are particularly targeted for abduction and murder. Ask God to send his divine protection to protect vulnerable communities today.

Wednesday 14 August

There are persistent allegations that elements within the army are complicit in the violence. Pray that any such elements would be exposed, that they would be brought to justice, and that God would put in place leaders and soldiers committed to ending the terrorist threat.

Thursday 15 August

Pray today for the abolition of Nigeria's blasphemy laws, which fuel extremism and embolden perpetrators of religion-related violence. Pray for the release of all those currently imprisoned on blasphemy charges, and for an end to the impunity currently enjoyed by those who take the law into their own hands.

Friday 16 August

Give thanks for our colleagues at CSW-Nigeria. Ask God to keep them and their families safe, and to equip them with wise and effective strategies to promote freedom of religion or belief and support vulnerable communities.

Saturday 17 August

Lord Jesus, we cry out to you on behalf of the people of Nigeria today. Deliver the nation from violence, and from those in power who are either unwilling or unable to prevent it. Amen.