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PRESS STATEMENT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY OF THE CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT OF NIGERIA, AGAINST THE MASSACRE BY UNKNOWN GUNMEN AT ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC CHURCH OWO, ONDO STATE NIGERIA ON SUNDAY THE 5TH OF JUNE 2022

Enough is Enough!

It was with pain in the heart that we received the shattering news of the unprovoked massacre of innocent worshippers at St. Francis Catholic Church Owo, Ondo State. This barbaric action led to the death of over 50 persons leaving a good number terribly injured. It was, to say the least, most barbaric and atavistic. Our country Nigeria has become a theater of blood of innocent citizens and the government of the day has continued to live in denial. Once again it has demonstrated a governance deficit. Meanwhile, the government has a sacred duty to protect the life and property of its citizens. The governments in Nigeria at all levels have failed the Nigerian masses.

The Church and Society Department of the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria, while condemning the massacre in Owo wish to call the government of President Muhammadu Buhari and all the Security architecture of the country to rise up to their bounden duty of ensuring the safety of life and peace among the citizens. The senseless waste of precious human life in Nigeria can no longer be tolerated. Enough should be enough.

Meanwhile, we condole with the Catholic Diocese of Ondo, its leadership, Clergy, and Religious, including the laity especially the families of the victims. To the sick and the injured, currently receiving treatment in the hospitals, we continue to pray for your speedy recovery and your total well-being. We commend the dead to rest in the peace of Christ and enjoy the banquet of eternal life. May God's perpetual light continue to shine on them.

We continue to urge the government and all the duty bearers in our states, especially the security architecture of our government to swing into action, search for the perpetrators of that heinous act, and ensure that the just arms of the law will catch up with them.

Once again, let it be said more loudly, government exists for the overall well-being of its citizens and if a government does not live up to its responsibility, such a government does not need to exist.

Shalom

Uchechukwu Fr. Obodoechina Ph.D
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