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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(26.1.2026)

The EU has followed with great concern the recent spate of attacks and mass abductions in western Nigeria, which targeted a church and a Catholic school. The EU stands in solidarity with all victims of violence and abductions, and strongly condemns these vile and cruel attacks.

The EU sees the federal government of Nigeria to be multi-confessional and neutral towards the different ethnic and religious communities in the country. It is its sovereign responsibility to ensure equal protection of all citizens and to investigate the number of victims of the attacks.

The EU has expressed full support to Nigerian authorities in their efforts to fight violence across the country and to address its numerous and complex drivers, including religion.

The EU supports the Nigerian government's efforts to have the hostages safely released without delay and stands ready to enhance its support in the framework of the Peace, Security and Defence dialogue with Nigeria which the EU intends to hold in Brussels in February 2026. Further support is expected in the current multi-annual financial framework.

The EU supports regional security including through the Multi-National Joint Task Force against Boko Haram (EUR 234 million since 2016) and through the Economic Community of West African States Commission in its conflict prevention mandate. Locally, EU-funded peacebuilding projects such as Faith for Peace and the Religious Engagement in Nigeria Enhanced by Women (I-RENEW)¹ foster trust between religious leaders, encouraging interfaith dialogue and community-led reconciliation. The EU is supporting the Nigerian National Peace Committee, consisting of respected elderly leaders of different religious affiliations, engaged in a constant dialogue on drivers of violence.

¹ <https://www.sfcg.org/project/religious-engagement-in-nigeria-enhanced-by-women-i-renew/>.