

# CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF KONTAGORA

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## UPDATE ON THE KIDNAPPING OF PUPILS, STUDENTS, AND TEACHERS OF ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, PAPIRI – AS AT 23RD NOVEMBER, 2025

As of Sunday, 23rd November 2025, we wish to inform the public that fifty (50) pupils who were previously abducted have successfully escaped and reunited with their parents. This encouraging development comes just days after bandits attacked our school and abducted a total of 315 individuals, comprising 289 pupils, 14 secondary school students, and 12 staff members. The pupils who escaped did so between Friday and Saturday. They did not report back to the school; instead, we were able to confirm their safe return home during follow-up visits and calls from their families.

For clarity, out of the 315 individuals initially reported abducted, 265 remain in captivity. This figure includes 239 pupils, 14 students, and 12 staff members who are yet to return. We are providing these details to ensure complete transparency as we continue to work closely with parents, guardians, security agencies, and relevant authorities to verify and update all records.

To further contextualize the situation, the school has a total of 430 primary pupils, 377 boarders and 53 day pupils. The secondary section comprises 199 students, including 185 boarders and 14 day students. These details are important in helping the public understand the scale of the incident and the extensive efforts underway to account for every missing child and staff member.

We remain fully committed to the safe rescue of those still in captivity. We continue to collaborate with security agencies and relevant stakeholders, and we urge the public to remain calm, prayerful, and supportive as these efforts progress.

Thank you and God Bless.

Rev Fr. Jatau Luka Joseph  
Diocesan Secretary

