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NIGERIA | CSW Offers Condolences on the Death of Kaduna State Governor

Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) is saddened to learn of the death Dec. 15 of Governor Patrick Ibrahim Yakowa of Kaduna State in a helicopter crash in Nigeria.

Mervyn Thomas, Chief Executive of CSW UK said: "We are shocked and saddened by the sudden and tragic death of Governor Yakowa. We offer our deepest condolences to his family and friends, and to the people of Kaduna State, all of whom are in our thoughts and prayers."

Governor Yakowa is reported to have lost his life when a navy helicopter in which he was travelling crashed in Bayelsa State. Also killed in the crash were former National Security Advisor General Andrew Owoye Azazi, Dauda Tsoho, Warrant Officer Mohammed Kamal, and pilots Commander Murtala Mohammed Daba and Lt Adeyemi O Sowole.

In the first official confirmation of the fatalities the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP) described Governor Yakowa as "a great patriot" who "rendered quality stewardship to his people."

According to Presidential Spokesman Reuben Abati, President Goodluck Jonathan, who has ordered an investigation into the crash, said the deaths of Governor Yakowa and General Azazi were "an extremely painful loss to the entire nation."

Governor Yakowa's deputy, Alhaji Mukhtar Lamarin Yero, was sworn in as governor on Dec. 16.

The Reverend Yunusa Nmadu, CEO of CSW Nigeria, said, "Governor Yakowa was a symbol of peace and reconciliation, a gentleman to the core. We are shaken to our very foundations, and are asking the Church worldwide for prayers for the families of all who lost their lives, for the peace of our state, and for the incoming governor."