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Wilson says he is praying for families who suffered tragic loss

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December 01, 2014 | Silver Spring, Maryland, United States | Record staff and ANN staff

Eight Seventh-day Adventists were among 28 bus passengers massacred by militants in Mandera, Kenya on November 22.

According to CNSnews.com, members of a Somalia-based militant group stopped the
Nairobi-bound vehicle and questioned passengers to determine whether they were Muslims. Eyewitnesses said those who answered unsatisfactorily were taken aside and shot.

The militant group claimed responsibility for the massacre in a statement. The group called the Christian victims “crusaders” and said the attack was in response to police raids conducted the previous week on mosques in Mombasa, Kenya’s second largest city.

Representatives of the Adventist Church’s East-Central Africa Division confirmed that at least eight Adventists were killed in the massacre.

CNSnews also reported the 59-passenger bus was also carrying a number of teachers and health workers who were heading home for the Christmas holidays.

Mandera is the capital of the Mandera District in northeastern Kenya near the borders of Somalia and Ethiopia.

Adventist Church president offers condolences for families of Kenya bus attack victims

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Seventh-day Adventist Church President Ted N. C. Wilson has issued a statement of condolence for families of those killed in a militant attack in Kenya on November 22.

At least eight Adventists were among the 28 bus passengers massacred by militants in Mandera. Local news agencies reported that a Somalia-based group stopped the Nairobi-bound vehicle and shot passengers based on their religion.

Wilson expressed condolences to the families in the following statement:

On behalf of Seventh-day Adventist members around the world, we are very saddened by the terrible deaths of a number of Seventh-day Adventists that took place recently in northern Kenya. Our hearts ache for the families who have lost loved ones, including children, in the senseless and brutal killings.

My wife, Nancy, and I would like to transmit our profound sympathy and Christian condolences to the families. We cannot understand the horrible actions that have taken place. However, the Holy Spirit as the Comforter can bring encouragement and sustenance amidst such traumatic tragedy. We have prayed for these families who are suffering great loss.

What a blessing to know that in the near future, when Jesus returns, He will wipe away all death and tears. Philippians 4:7 states, “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” May the intervening action of the Holy Spirit bring these families the comfort that is so much needed.
Despite the atrocities in this present world, there is hope for the future when Christ will return. Through God’s power, let us remain faithful to His Word and to Him! What an encouragement to know that the return of Jesus Christ is imminent and we can count on the Christian hope of eternal life.

May the Lord provide comfort and courage to everybody involved in this unexpected tragedy.

**Uganda’s president commends Adventists for honesty, service**

**Museveni attends fundraising launch for Church’s multipurpose complex**

*December 02, 2014 | Kampala, Uganda | Mwebaza Samuel/UUM/ANN*

The president of the central African nation of Uganda commended Seventh-day Adventists for their honesty and integrity during a speech last month.

Yoweri Kaguta Museveni called Adventists “honest,” during a speech to leaders and members at an Adventist center in the capital city of Kampala on November 22.

In his speech, Museveni also urged Adventists to continue their service to the nation. “Influence people by your example because you shall be known by your actions,” he said. “Let your light shine for others to see so they can praise to your Father in heaven.”

The president was invited by officials from the denomination’s Uganda Union Mission to join in launching a fundraising drive for a multipurpose Adventist Church Complex near the Union offices in Kampala.

The complex will be a nine-story multipurpose building with conference rooms, guest houses, office spaces, a book store, board rooms, church halls and other facilities.

John Kakembo, president of the Uganda Union, thanked the president for honoring the invitation to the Adventist Church and its representation in the country’s political cabinet through the appointment of four Church members, all of whom attended the ceremony.

Rose Namayanja, Minister for Information and National Guidance, thanked the president for granting Uganda citizens the right to worship. “Through the constitution, you granted us freedom of worship and elevated our rights,” she said, comparing his approach to previous administrations that banned many religions in the nation.

Kakembo also urged Museveni to support legislation that would make accommodation for students and employees requesting Saturdays off for religious observance.
This is the fourth time president Museveni has attended an Adventist Church function in Uganda.

There are more than 260,000 Adventists in Uganda.