

**PAS condemns Nigeria Christmas bombings**  
**The Malaysian Insider**  
**December 26, 2011**  
**By Yow Hong Chieh**

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 26 — PAS has slammed the Christmas Day church bombings carried out by Islamists in Nigeria, which killed dozens of Christians yesterday.

“PAS, together with the international community, condemns the church attacks in the strongest terms possible,” the party’s international committee chair Datuk Kamarudin Jaffar told Harakahdaily today.

“We also support the statement made by the Muslim Council of Britain condemning the attacks.”

Muslim Council of Britain secretary-general Murad Farooq had said in a statement yesterday faithful Muslims should not tolerate attacks on houses of worship, including those of Christians.

Islamist militants set off bombs across Nigeria on Christmas Day — three targeting churches including one that killed at least 27 people — raising fears that they are trying to ignite sectarian civil war.

The Boko Haram Islamist sect, which aims to impose syariah law across the country, claimed responsibility for the three church bombs, the second Christmas in a row the group has caused mass carnage with deadly bombings of churches.

Security forces also blamed the sect for two other blasts in the north.

St Theresa’s Catholic Church in Madala, a satellite town about 40km from the centre of the capital Abuja, was packed when the bomb exploded just outside.

Hours after the first bomb, blasts were reported at the Mountain of Fire and Miracles Church in the central, ethnically and religiously mixed town of Jos, and at a church in northern Yobe state at the town of Gadaka.

Boko Haram — which in the Hausa language spoken in northern Nigeria means “Western education is sinful” — is loosely modelled on the Taliban movement in Afghanistan.

It has emerged as the biggest security threat in Nigeria, a country of 160 million split evenly between Christians and Muslims, who for the most part live side by side in peace.

Its low-level insurgency used to be largely confined to north-eastern Nigeria, but it has struck several parts of the north, centre and the capital Abuja this year.

Source: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/pas-condemns-nigeria-christmas-bombings/>