

Kidnappers Kill 2 Wedding Guests At FCT



policemen



By Adam Umar

Mon, 6 Oct 2025 4:48:00 WAT



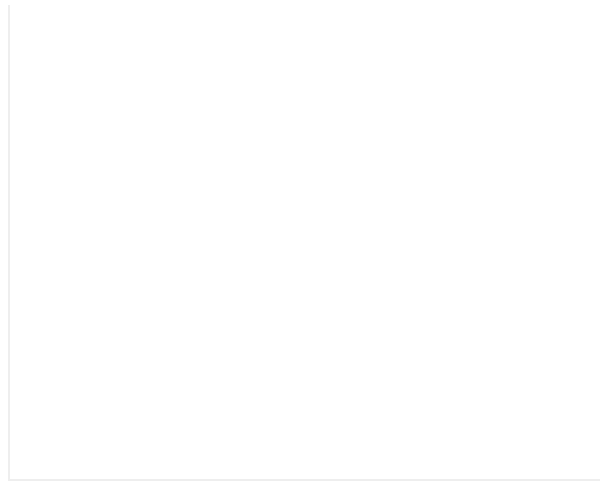
There was palpable fear at the weekend in Bwari town, the headquarters of the Bwari Area Council of the FCT, as well as other communities that border Niger State, when gunmen suspected to be kidnappers shot two persons to death.

Abuja Metro learned that the victims, who were killed on Friday night, were returning from Gwagwalada Area Council in the Federal Capital Territory, where they had attended a wedding

ceremony.



Locals told our reporter in Abuja that the wedding guests, four in number, were on two motorcycles heading back to Garam, a community near Bwari town in the FCT but under Tafa LGA of Niger State.



They were reportedly flagged down by the gunmen around 10:30 pm at Rafin-Azum, which is not far from the Garam community, after the bandits noticed their movement as they were approaching them with the flash from the motorcycles' light.

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Dantani Daniel, Commander of the Nigerian Forest Security Service (NFSS) in Garam, while chatting with Abuja Metro on the phone yesterday, disclosed that the gunmen had earlier abducted a herder from Jinkasa village, located within Dogon-Daji forest, also in the council.

He said one of the four wedding guests was able to escape at the spot, while two others were shot by the gunmen as they were attempting to escape too. “One of them died instantly, while the other one

died at the Bwari General Hospital where he was rushed to. The remaining one person is yet to be heard of and is feared to have been taken away by the kidnappers,” Daniel added.

He further stated that the herdsman who was first abducted by the gunmen also used the advantage of the confrontation to escape.

It was gathered that the two deceased were buried on Saturday, after a funeral prayer in the community in accordance with Islamic rites.

When contacted, the Suleja Police Area Commander, Muhammad Sani Musa, who was said to have attended the prayers, confirmed the incident to our reporter.



Palpable fear in Bwari

Meanwhile, there has been heightened fear among residents of Bwari following the resurgence of banditry activities in the council recently.

It would be recalled that the council had witnessed several attacks in many communities with many deaths and a greater number kidnapped.

Last Monday, kidnappers reportedly attacked Kungabokun, a remote community located near Byazhin-Across on the outskirts of Kubwa in the same council, killing a veterinary doctor and abducting three of his children.

A community leader in Bwari, Danteni Alhassan, said many people are now scared, fearing the return of the old situation when bandits were killing and abducting residents.



He said, “Let me be frank with you, there is fear among the residents now; we can no longer sleep with our two eyes closed. The situation is gradually escalating and something needs to be done urgently.”

Another resident, Kilani Jimoh, pleaded with the security agencies to monitor the boundaries around Niger and Kaduna states, from where he said bandits often come to attack Bwari and its villages.

FCT is safe—Wike

Meanwhile, the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Nyesom Wike, has reassured residents that Abuja is a safe and secure city.

The Minister gave the assurance while responding to a question about security concerns in the nation's capital during a project inspection at the weekend.



Wike emphasized that there is improved security in the FCT compared to what was obtained in the past, stressing that isolated incidents of insecurity do not define the city's overall safety.

“If there is one safe city in this country, I think Abuja is that city,” the Minister stated, noting that the “Light Up Abuja” program, which involves installing solar streetlights across districts and expressways, is also a strategic initiative to further enhance security.

He said, “The problem we have here is that when one incident happens, we forget that three months ago, nothing happened. You should give us and the security agencies credit that we are doing quite a lot to make Abuja safe, and Abuja has been safe.

“We do agree that something may happen but that does not mean that Abuja is not safe. I don't want us to take that to mean that the city is not safe. If there is one safe city in this country, I think Abuja is that city,” Wike added.