

3 killed in fresh attack

Meanwhile, three people have reportedly been killed in a fresh attack by bandits in the Bokungi community, Edu Local Government Area of Kwara State.

The incident, it was gathered, occurred on Wednesday around 6:30pm, less than 24 hours after the brutal attack in Eruku, Ekiti Local Government Area of the state.

Two of the victims, who were rice farmers, were said to be heading to the farms to retrieve harvested rice when the bandits struck.

Community sources said four individuals, including a vigilante, were initially kidnapped during the incidents.

One of the sources said assailants later killed the two rice farmers and inflicted wounds on a third individual, who is said to be a vigilante.

“The victims were at their farmlands to retrieve harvested rice when the bandits struck. They attacked two separate groups.

“The first attack resulted in the abduction of two people who were packaging their harvested rice.

“Shortly thereafter, the bandits abducted another two people from a neighbouring farm. In total, four people were taken captive in the coordinated attacks, including a teenage boy,” he added.

The bandits later went away with a Bajaj motorcycle recently distributed to the vigilantes by the local government chairman, Abdullahi Bello, to aid security patrols.

Several calls to the council chairman and the Commissioner of Police, Adekimi Ojo, were not answered on Thursday.

But a vigilante commander in Edu, Gina Gana, confirmed the incident.

He said, “The bandits attacked the victim as they were preparing to leave the farm on Wednesday in the community.

“They have killed three people, including two farmers and a vigilante, but we are yet to see the last person.

“We have been experiencing relative peace after the security situation peaked months ago, except for some pockets of attacks in a few places, until this incident.”

On Thursday, the governor hosted a combined delegation of the Eruku community and the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) following the attack.

Speaking during the engagement, the governor said, “Yesterday (Wednesday), I led a delegation that included the Commissioner of Police, Ojo Adekimi, State Director of the Department of State Services (DSS), and officials of our government to Eruku to condole with the people on the unfortunate incident.

“I’m equally saddened at the report of an attack on rice farmers in the Bokungi area of Edu LGA. I wholly condemn these attacks. May God repose the souls of our compatriots who died in the incidents. I also pray that their families find the fortitude to bear the loss,” he said.