

Bandits kill 6, abduct others in Kogi

From Tijani Labaran, Lokoja

Gunmen on Sunday attacked an ECWA Church in Aaz-Kiri community, Kabba/Bunu Local Government Area of Kogi State, killing at least one person and abducting an unspecified number of worshippers.

It was gathered that the attackers stormed the community in the early hours of Sunday morning, firing sporadically to scare residents and create panic.

Amid the confusion, the gunmen reportedly advanced toward the ECWA church where parishioners were holding a Sunday service at the time of the

attack.

A resident of a neighbouring village, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the assailants struck while worship was ongoing.

"It is not yet clear how many people were killed. However, one death has been confirmed, and many families are reporting missing relatives believed to have been abducted by the gunmen," the source said.

In a separate but coordinated attack the same day, bandits also invaded Ilai and Okeagi communities in Mopamuro Local Government Area around 4 a.m., allegedly killing three persons.

Locals said the attackers

struck almost simultaneously in different locations and operated for over an hour before distress calls reached security agencies.

According to residents, the gunmen first attacked Jamraro settlement, located between Okeagi and Takete Isao, killing two people and injuring three others.

Another group reportedly attacked a settlement near Ilai Grammar School, killing one person and abducting three others.

Jamraro is predominantly inhabited by Tiv farmers, while the Ilai settlement is largely occupied by Bassa farmers.

Reacting to the incidents, Senator Sunday Karimi,

who represents Kogi West in the Senate, condemned the attacks and called for urgent intervention.

In a statement, he expressed concern over the killing and abduction of worshippers in Aaz-Kiri and similar attacks in Okeagi and Ilai communities.

He said many residents had fled their homes following the renewed assaults, describing the security situation as deeply troubling.

The senator urged both the federal and state governments, alongside other stakeholders, to take decisive action to curb the growing insecurity.

He also recalled that worshippers abducted from a Cherubim and

Seraphim Church in Yagba East two weeks earlier were yet to be released, noting that communities across the district are living in fear.

Similarly, the Kogi State Commissioner for Information and Communication, Kingsley Fanwo, sympathised with the affected communities, assuring that efforts were ongoing to restore security.

The attacks were confirmed by the Chairman of Mopamuro Local Government Area, Ademola Bello, and traditional authorities, who were seen at hospitals assessing the condition of victims.

However, the police spokesperson in Kogi State, William Aya, had not responded to enquiries as of the time of filing this report.

Tinubu committed to ending insecurity — SGF