

Insecurity persists as girl dies, another gives birth in captivity

A 14-year-old girl, Ummi, from Ibeto town in Magama Local Government Area of Niger State, was said to have died from an undisclosed ailment after spending over two months in captivity.

Ummi was kidnapped alongside 16 others on October 1, 2025 when bandits attacked the town. The attack reportedly left four persons killed and nine others injured.

Among the captives are; Barrister Isyaku Danjuma, Nana Firdausi Isah, Shamsiya Jibrin, Suwaiba Ashafa, Hadiza Yusuf, Basira Yunusa, Sale Boy, Rashida Sale, Mujida Uccu, Safina Arma, Maryam Arma, Sadiqa Arma, Hassan Isah, Hussaina Isah, Aishatu Isah, Ubaida Yusuf and Na'ima Uccu.

Another abductee, Safina Arma, was said to have given birth to a baby boy in captivity.

Safina was reportedly pregnant at the time she was kidnapped during the attack.

Sources said the news of Ummi's death and Safina's childbirth was broken to their families on Monday.

According to a journalist based in Kontagora, Zakari Adamu Kontagora, "Among the women abducted by bandits in Ibeto, one of them named Safinah gave birth yesterday (Monday) to a baby boy. Besides her, there are others who are currently pregnant in captivity while some are ill. There is also a young girl who died on Friday. The situation is such that one can hardly say anything except to pray that God grants them a way out, because the authorities seem as though it is none of their concern.

"Sadly, on Friday, the girl, Ummi, daughter of Mai Su, aged between 13 and 14 years, passed away after suffering from illness while in captivity.

"Her relatives were informed yesterday (Monday) and the people of Ibeto have already performed Salatul Ga'ib (funeral prayer in absentia) for her, as prescribed by the Islamic religion. Besides her, there are others who are also seriously ill among the 17 people abducted in Ibeto, especially women and young children who are still in their custody," he said.

Kontagora added that the victims had spent nearly 100 days in captivity since they were abducted, with no assurance yet of their rescue.

He said families and relatives of the victims were traumatized by their continued stay in captivity.

Meanwhile, Armayau Gimba, whose eight family members were among the abductees, recently told Aljazeera that he was contacted by the terrorists and asked to pay N800, 000, in addition to supplying 10 jerricans of petrol and 10 gallons of engine oil.

He said the demands forced him to sell the motorcycle he used for farming activities, yet his family members are still being held by the abductors.

However, farmers in Bangi and Mariga LGAs of the state told *Daily Trust* that they were yet to harvest their crops this year due to renewed kidnappings on farmlands.

One of them, who did not want his name mentioned, said the leader of the Yoruba community in Bangi, was recently killed while harvesting crops on his farm.

“We have not been able to harvest our crops. Our soyabeans are being wasted because they have dried up. Our white beans are also due for harvesting. The only thing we have partially harvested this year is maize. We need support because we are being impoverished”, he said.

The spokesperson of the Niger State Police Command, SP Wasiu Abiodun, had said efforts were being intensified by the police, military and vigilantes to secure the release of people in captivity.

Governor Mohammed Umaru Bago on Monday called for renewed prayers for the release of all residents of the state in captivity, including the remaining children from St. Mary Primary and Secondary School, Papiri, in Agwara LGA.