

Terrorists kill 2, kidnap 25 in Sokoto

By Abubakar Auwal, Sokoto

No fewer than two residents of Achida town in Wurno Local Government Area of Sokoto State have been killed by suspected terrorists who raided the community Thursday night.

The assailants also abducted at least 25 other residents in the community, located about 20 kilometres away from Sokoto metropolis, an area that had witnessed an increasing rate of banditry in the eastern part of the state.

Residents who spoke to Weekend Trust while confirming the incident explained that the attackers stormed the town around 11pm and operated for about an hour without hindrance from security operatives.

One of the residents who didn't want his name in print disclosed that the assailants initially targeted a vigilante outpost on the outskirts of the town.

According to him, a 10-year-old boy, women and local vigilantes were among those abducted.

"They surrounded our vigilantes who were at their post and abducted them

before moving into the town to take women and children from their homes," the source said.

Another resident added that the attackers carried out the operation quietly and only began shooting after completing the abduction, a development he said triggered panic in the community.

"We were unaware of their presence until about midnight when gunshots rang out. That was when two of our men were killed," he said.

The residents, however, called on the government to establish a military outpost in Achida to prevent further incidents.

When contacted, the spokesman of the Sokoto police command, DSP Ahmad Rufa'i confirmed the attack, saying members of their tactical team were able to rescue three of the abducted women.

"Yes, we are aware of the attack and we have since deployed our tactical team to the area, who were able to rescue three women," he said.

Rufa'i, however, said they could not give the exact number of people kidnapped as they were still compiling their report.