

Bandits kill two children, abduct three in Bauchi community

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Bandits killed two children, injured six others and abducted three residents in Rafin Ciyawa village in Ningi Local Government Area of Bauchi State during a midnight raid.

The attack, which occurred about 12:30 a.m., sent residents fleeing for safety as gunshots echoed across the village. Many initially believed security operatives were conducting an operation before realising the community had come under attack.

“We thought it was the police or local vigilantes. It was only later that we realised bandits had invaded the village,” a resident, Zubairu Yahaya, told our Correspondent.

Yahaya said the victims were among several children sleeping outside their Quranic teacher's house because of the hot weather.

"When we got to where the children were sleeping, we found two of them dead, while six others had suffered serious gunshot injuries," he said.



He added that after the initial attack, the gunmen left the village but returned moments later, going from house to house in search of two brothers, Saminu and Safiyanu, whom they believed had recently received a large sum.

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According to him, the assailants abducted members of the brothers' family after failing to locate them.

Yahaya further claimed that the bandits admitted the deaths of the children were accidental, saying the victims were not their intended targets.

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"They asked us to accept the deaths as the will of Allah before leaving with the kidnapped victims," he said.

Another resident, Mukhtar Usman, said he narrowly escaped after the gunmen stormed his house in search of his younger brother.

He said three members of his household—Rukkaya, Samsiyya and Kabiru—were abducted during the raid.

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Usman also said the kidnappers later contacted the family, initially demanding N100 million for the victims' release before reducing the ransom to N10 million.

"We are still negotiating with them," he said.

The spokesman for the state Police Command, Superintendent of Police Nafiu Habib, told The Nation that two children were killed while three persons were abducted during the invasion.

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He said operatives of the Anti-Kidnapping Unit and members of the Village Rescue Committee, supported by hunters and vigilantes, had been deployed to the community to rescue the abducted victims and track down the perpetrators.

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The Nation reports that the attack has left residents in shock, with community members appealing to the government and security agencies to secure the release of those abducted and strengthen security in the area to forestall further attacks.