

Kidnappers kill two Nasarawa Youths

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| Ismaeel Uthman with Agency Report

| Nasarawa State map

Two youths from the Sarkin Noma community in Keana Local Government Area of Nasarawa State were reportedly killed in the early hours of Friday during a confrontation with kidnappers who invaded their community.

The incident, which occurred around 2 am, led to a protest by hundreds of angry youths who blocked the busy Makurdi highway for several hours to express their frustration over persistent abductions and attacks by gunmen in the area.

The demonstrators, carrying placards with various inscriptions and leaves, vowed not to reopen the road until government authorities addressed the worsening security situation.

According to a report by the *News Agency of Nigeria*, the youths were later persuaded to disperse by the state Commissioner of Police, Shettima Jauro-Mohammed, who assured them of immediate intervention.

A youth leader in the community, Ogu Iliya, told journalists that about 50 gunmen stormed Sarkin Noma, shooting sporadically before abducting an elderly resident identified as Matthew Anzaku.

He said the youths mobilised in self-defence to rescue the victim but were met with heavy gunfire, leading to the death of two members of the community.

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“The gunmen, suspected to be herdsmen, attacked at about 2 a.m. We tried to rescue the man they kidnapped, but they overpowered us. Two of our boys were shot dead,” Iliya said.

“These attacks have become too frequent. People can no longer go to the market to sell their farm produce without fear of being kidnapped. The old man taken last night is still missing, and we don’t know his condition.”

The protesters later carried the corpses of the two slain youths to the highway, blocking vehicular movement along the Makurdi–Keana route.

Reacting, the Police Public Relations Officer in the state, DSP Rahman Nansel, confirmed the incident, saying the Commissioner of Police led a team of security operatives to restore calm to the area.

He said, “Normalcy has been restored, and investigations have commenced to uncover those behind the repeated kidnappings in Keana and its environs. The command will ensure that those responsible are brought to justice.”