

# Gunmen Attack NIPSS, Kill Three Security Operatives In Plateau

[Musa Pam](#)

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Tragedy struck the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) [Kuru, in Plateau State](#), as gunmen attacked the institution's vicinity in the early hours of Tuesday, killing three security personnel deployed to guard staff quarters.

The attack, which has heightened security concerns around Nigeria's foremost policy think tank, was reportedly directed at the residences of senior officials of the institute.

Confirming the incident, the Head of Public Affairs at NIPSS, Dr. Osime Samuel, said in a statement that a security breach occurred around the institute but assured that the situation had been swiftly contained by security personnel.

"The National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, Kuru, wishes to inform the public that a security incident occurred in the vicinity of the institute in the early hours of today," Samuel stated.

According to him, the prompt intervention of security operatives and relevant agencies brought the situation under control, adding that there was no threat to participants, staff, residents, or facilities within the institute.

"There is currently no threat to the safety of participants, staff, residents, or facilities of the institute. Normal activities are continuing as scheduled," he added.

However, sources familiar with the development disclosed that the attackers may have targeted the residences of the Acting Director of Studies, Barrister Nima Salman-Mann, and a Directing Staff member, Professor Haruna Dabin.

The sources revealed that both officials allegedly received handwritten threat notes pasted on their doors on Saturday, demanding payments of \$100,000 and ₦15 million respectively. The matter was reportedly brought to the attention of the institute's management.

A source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the security operatives engaged the attackers in a fierce exchange of gunfire while protecting the staff quarters.

"During the day, local vigilantes monitor the staff quarters, while soldiers and police personnel are deployed at night. It is believed that the attackers came after the staff members they had earlier threatened with ransom demands," the source said.

Meanwhile, the Plateau State Police Command confirmed the death of three security operatives during the attack and announced the deployment of additional security personnel to the area.

In a press statement issued by the Police Public Relations Officer, SP Alfred Alabo, the command described the incident as unfortunate but assured residents that security agencies had regained control of the situation.

"Regrettably, three security personnel lost their lives during the incident," the statement said.

The police further disclosed that reinforcements had been deployed, while patrols around Kuru and adjoining communities had been intensified to prevent further breaches of security and to reassure residents.

The command maintained that normalcy had returned to the area and urged members of the public to remain calm and cooperate with security agencies.

NIPSS management also disclosed that investigations had commenced to unravel the circumstances surrounding the attack and cautioned against circulating unverified information.

"Security agencies have commenced investigations to determine the circumstances surrounding the incident. As investigations are ongoing, it would be premature to speculate on the nature, scope, or outcome of the event," the institute stated.

The institute noted that it could not verify reports circulating on social media and other unofficial platforms and appealed to the public to rely only on information released through official channels.

"NIPSS is working closely with the appropriate authorities and will provide verified information as soon as it becomes available," the statement added.