

Kwara under terrorists' siege, kill, loot, attack NSCDC office

By Demola Akinyemi

ILORIN—RESIDENTS of Omugo and Oro-Ago communities in Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara State are gripped by fear following a wave of coordinated attacks by suspected terrorists, who have abducted worshippers, killed residents, looted properties, and attacked security formations.

At Omugo Community, eight worshippers of the ECWA Church remain in captivity after being abducted during a recent attack. The terrorists have rejected N10 million of-

fered by the community, insisting on a N1 billion ransom for their release. Vanguard gathered that many residents have deserted their homes due to persistent bandit attacks, leaving the once vibrant community almost deserted. According to Pastor Toba Omole, who was granted access to the abducted worshippers last Tuesday, the kidnappers insisted on the huge ransom before releasing the victims.

"We have offered the terrorists N1 Million but they rejected it, insisting that they will hold on to our members until the N1 billion is completed," Pastor Toba Omole said. The

abduction occurred during an attack on the Omugo ECWA Church via Oro-Ago, where eight worshippers, including the wife of the pastor in charge, were taken away by the gunmen. Three of the victims later escaped, leaving the rest in captivity. Meanwhile, Oro-Ago community has witnessed a series of deadly attacks in recent days.

In one of the incidents last week, the terrorists invaded the community, killed a vigilante identified as Baba Ibeji, and injured his younger brother, Ajere. A Point of Sale (PoS) shop located directly opposite the NSCDC divisional office was also broken into by the bandits.