

Outrage in Sokoto as deadly bandit attacks spark protest, displace residents



By Musa Ubandawaki, Sokoto

Residents of Bodinga Local Government Area of Sokoto State on Friday staged a mass protest over renewed bandit attacks that reportedly claimed several lives, displaced scores of villagers and heightened fears across affected communities.

The protesters blocked the Sokoto–Jega–Yauri highway, a major route linking Sokoto with Kebbi and Niger states, demanding urgent government intervention to halt the escalating insecurity in the area.



The protest disrupted vehicular movement for several hours as demonstrators set tyres and logs ablaze on sections of the highway.

Eyewitnesses said some vehicles, including a bus belonging to the Kebbi State Transport Authority (KSTA), were vandalised before security operatives restored order.

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Residents said the protest followed coordinated attacks allegedly carried out by armed bandits on several villages in Bodinga LGA on Thursday, resulting in deaths, abductions and the displacement of many residents.

A resident, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the demonstration was aimed at drawing national attention to the worsening security situation in the area.

“We are appealing to the government to act urgently before more innocent lives are lost. Entire communities have been uprooted by these attacks. Families are now taking refuge in schools and public facilities after fleeing their homes,” he said.

Findings indicated that many displaced residents have taken shelter in temporary camps and public buildings in Bodinga town.

One displaced resident from Qyaula village recounted the attack, saying armed men stormed the community and opened fire indiscriminately, forcing residents to flee.

“They came shooting in all directions. We had no option but to run for our lives. Some people were killed while others were taken away. The situation was terrifying,” he said.