

# Incessant robberies spark protests in Birnin Gwari

From Misbahu Bashir,  
Kaduna

Protesters yesterday barricaded the Birnin Gwari roads in Kaduna with logs and stones complaining about poor security and increase in armed robbery incidents in the area.

The protesters blocked the ever-busy Lagos-Birnin Gwari, Kaduna-Birnin Gwari as well as the Funtua-Birnin Gwari roads around 6am, blocking thousands of travellers.

Also major towns along the roads including Udawa joined the protests and erected barricades of burning tyres and logs on the roads.

The protests were sparked by the killing of a prominent man in Birnin Gwari, Abubakar Shu'aibu, by gunmen suspected to be robbers along the Kaduna-Birnin Gwari road on Sunday evening.

One of the protesters in Birnin Gwari, Salisu Haruna said people all over the emirate resolved to stage a peaceful protest "by blocking the roads" to complain of poor security in the area.

He said robberies have become common occurrences in the area to the extent that "robbers waylay travelers along road two or three times at different spots in a day in spite of the presence of the police."

Our reporter who travelled to Birnin Gwari found hundreds of vehicles and passengers stranded along the road.

A detachment of soldiers arrived in Birnin Gwari around 3pm and negotiated peacefully with the porters who later agreed to remove the barricades.

Kaduna state police spokesmen Aminu Lawan said protesters did block the roads but have agreed to allow vehicular movements after negotiations with soldiers.

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