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BANDITS KILL 25 HERDSMEN, ABDUCT 30 IN KADUNA

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Mask-wearing men have killed at least 25 Fulani herders and abducted 30 others in different incidents in Kaduna State in the last one week, sources said yesterday. The masked men were said to have invaded a market in Sabon Bimi, Bimin Gwari local government area where they made the abductions. Police said they were searching for the masked men but were yet to establish their motives.

Chairman of the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN) in Kaduna, Alhaji Ahmadu Suleiman, said yesterday gunmen wearing masks disguising as vigilantes allegedly killed at least 25 herders in different locations.

"The gunmen were wearing masks; they killed nine Fulani men, who were buried at Rigachikun in Igabi local government area and abducted about 30 at a market place in Sabon Bimi. The killers were wearing uniforms similar to those of local vigilantes," Suleiman said.

He said three other corpses were recovered in the bush and handed over to family members for burial on April 5, in Riyawa also in Igabi, adding that 11 herdsmen were slain in Gundumar Kasaya Labi in Chikun local government on the same day.

The gunmen also attacked herders in Buruku also in Chikun on April 9, killing 2 and injuring one, Suleiman added.

The MACBAN chairman said Fulani herdsmen were now living in fear because they could be attacked at any time, adding that "the situation is getting worse every day."

Kaduna State police spokesman, Zubairu Abubakar, said the police have not received any report on the attacks, but were aware of the killing of people in a village Rigachikun, adding that a manhunt for the alleged killers had been launched.

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