



CRIME

Gunmen kill 2, kidnap others on Abuja-Lokoja highway

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

Gunmen suspected to be kidnappers have shot dead two bus drivers and abducted many passengers at Idu village, on the Abuja-Lokoja road.

Daily Trust learnt that six persons sustained bullet wounds and were rescued by men of the Gegu-Beki unit command of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) and taken to Abaji General Hospital.

A witness, who is a resident of Idu village identified as Musa, said the incident happened around 6:34 pm on Sunday, when gunmen in their numbers, emerged from the bush close to the bridge and opened fire on vehicles coming from both lanes.

He said the gunmen, opened fire on two commuter buses and killed the drivers, forcing the buses to veer off the road and rammed to a halt.

"They then abducted the passengers on board and

took them into the bush," he added.

He said passengers in other vehicles sustained injuries as the gunmen rained bullets on all the vehicles that drove past.

A survivor, Francis Emmanuel, said he narrowly escaped the attack after the kidnappers opened fire and deflated one of the front tyres of his car.

He said he was returning from the Eastern part of the country to Abuja, when he ran into the kidnappers who opened fire on his car.

"In fact, it was God that saved me. They opened fire and deflated one of my tyres. I just managed to drive like that down to a nearby village to park and fix a spare tyre," he said.

The Gegu-Beki unit commander of the FRSC, ACC Elizabeth N.O, while speaking with our reporter through telephone, said she received a phone call that some passengers sustained injuries

as a result of gunmen attack, adding that she mobilised her men to the scene to convey the injured victims to hospital.

"In fact, it was on getting to the scene that we learnt from the victims that it was kidnappers that opened fire on their vehicles and abducted some people into the bush," she said.

She said two persons lost their lives while five others sustained bullet wounds and were taken to Abaji General Hospital.

The Chairman of Kogi-Kotonkarfe Local Government Council of Kogi State, Alhaji Isah Abdulkarim, confirmed the incident, saying vigilante members were mobilized to the scene immediately he received the distress call.

When contacted, the spokesman of the Kogi State police command, ASP Williams Ayah, asked our reporter to give him two hours to enable him to get details about the incident. He was yet to call back as at press time.

Abduct lecturer traditional ruler in Rivers