

# How bandits killed policeman, abducted students, staff in Kebbi school

From Aliyu Hamagam, Birnin Kebbi

**B**andits have abducted some students of Federal Government College, Birnin Yauri, Kebbi State.

A security operative was shot dead during the operation.

The attackers, who rode on motorcycles were said to have stormed the school from neighbouring Rijau forest on Thursday afternoon.

They were said to have overpowered the mobile policemen guarding the school.

At least 30 students and three teachers were abducted, one of which was a female, according to security sources.

This is the third known attack on a school in the country within three weeks.

Speaking to Daily Trust, a teacher with the college, who sought anonymity, said there was prior information about the plan to invade Birnin Yauri where the school is located.

The source said a detachment of mobile policemen was dispatched last week to guard the town.

He said the arms-wielding bandits

numbering about 150 invaded the school around 12:30 pm.

The policemen, he added, engaged them in a gun battle which led to the death of one policeman.

He said while the policemen engaged them in a gun battle at the gate, some of the bandits broke into the school premises from behind. He said the students ran for safety.

According to him, many students were abducted. The source added that the bandits used the police vehicle and bus belonging to a parent who came to the school to pick his son who was to sit a JAMB examination in evacuating the students.

The bandits were said to have abandoned the two vehicles along the way and left with the students.

The school authorities, he added, were unable to conduct an assembly with a view to ascertaining the number of the students abducted because of the tension created.

"All I can tell you now is that one of the policemen was killed in gun duel. Many of our students, both males and females, were abducted by the bandits. It is a co-education school, you know; a federal government college.

"Three or four teachers of the college were abducted. Out of the abductees, there was a vice principal and a female teacher. Two students, a male and a female, were said to have been shot by the bandits. The boy was shot on his buttocks while the girl sustained injuries in her arm."

In a statement, the spokesman of the state police command, DSP Nafiu Abubakar, confirmed the incident.

Abubakar said: "The Kebbi State Commissioner of Police, CP Adeleke Adeyinka, while condemning the attack which resulted in the unfortunate death of one policeman and gunshot injury to one of the students, has assured parents and guardians of students that the command is following credible leads and intensifying efforts to track the assailants and ensure the rescue of the missing students and teachers."

On May 30, pupils were abducted in an Islamic school in Tgina, Niger State.

Two weeks later, bandits abducted staff and students at Nuhu Bamali Polytechnic in Kaduna State.