

Bandits kill 2 soldiers, abduct many in Sokoto

From Abubakar Aswal, Sokoto

Suspected bandits were said to have killed two soldiers and injured seven others in an attack on Unguwar Lalle village in Sabon Birni Local Government of Sokoto State on Wednesday.

The bandits, it was gathered,

also burnt down two patrol vehicles belonging to the police and army.

An eyewitness said: "They came on 100 motorcycles, each motorcycle was carrying three well-armed bandits.

"They came from Tilibale axis and opened fire on the soldiers that were manning a checkpoint

along Sokoto-Sabon Birni Road.

"The soldiers also responded, but they were over powered because the bandits were many," an eyewitness said.

It was learnt that three operational vehicles left Sabon Birni town with re-enforcement, but were ambushed along the way and two soldiers shot dead.

"As I am talking to you, the whole Unguwar Lalle and environs are deserted for fear of another attack," he said.

He said the bandits also looted all the available shops in the area and rustled several livestock.

The bandits were also said to have kidnapped many residents,

including a hospital worker.

When contacted, the spokesman of the Nigeria Army, Brig-Gen Onyeoku, said he had not been briefed about the incident.

The spokesman of the state police command, Sanusi Abubakar, could not be reached for comment.

Yoruba nation agitation

Journalist policeman okada rider