

# Bandits kill 6, abduct dozens on Kaduna-Abuja, Kaduna-Zaria roads

**From Abubakar Sadiq Mohd (Zaria) & Mohamed I. Yaba (Kaduna)**

Bandits have killed six people and kidnapped dozens of others between Sunday and Monday along the Kaduna-Abuja and the Kaduna-Zaria highways.

*Daily Trust* gathered that the incident along the Kaduna-Abuja highway occurred on Sunday around Audu Jangwam village at 11pm and claimed the lives of three commuters.

However, the following day, bandits also blocked the Kaduna-Zaria highway around Gonar Magajin Gari at 8:30pm and killed three travellers.

A youth leader in one of the communities along the Kaduna-Abuja Highway told *Daily Trust* that security agents engaged the bandits during the operation but that the bandits had led three simultaneous operations in an attempt to distract security agents.

"The bandits divided themselves along the highway and while the security agents engaged one group, others operated around another section of the road. That was how they were able to kill three travellers but I cannot say if anyone was abducted," he said.

Our correspondents also gathered that bandits on Monday night blocked the Kaduna-Zaria Highway and abducted dozens of travellers in an operation that lasted almost three hours.

Witnesses said it was not until

11:30pm that a combined team of soldiers and police arrived at the scene and rescued travellers who were trapped in nearby bushes.

The Kaduna State Police Command is yet to comment on the two incidents as several calls to the Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Mohammed Jalige, were not answered.

However, a member of the vigilante service in Zaria who helped evacuate the dead confirmed that three people were killed and one person injured.

He said the injured person was taken to an undisclosed hospital and was responding to treatment.

A witness, who was travelling to Zaria from Kaduna, told *Daily Trust* that there was traffic gridlock from the scene of the incident which is about 15km from Zaria that stretched up to Gwargwaje in Zaria.

He said the bandits who came in vehicles parked them around Tudun Gaude village and used the vehicles to evacuate their captives.

The witness said: "We were by the roadside when we noticed vehicles making abrupt u-turn on the lane to Kaduna from Zaria while others drove into the bush.

"We also saw several motorists alighting from their vehicles in confusion and running on foot into bushes and we also ran," he said.

Another witness who escaped abduction, Bashir Abdu Na'iya, said a Dangote truck was seen on fire which alerted them that something was amiss.