

Friday, September 30, 2022

Bandits kill 2, abduct 23, demand N12m 'harvest levies' from Kaduna farmers

From Mohammed Ibrahim Yaba (Kaduna) & Abubakar Sadiq Mohd (Zaria)

Bandits have killed a farmer in the Shiwaka community and abducted over 20 people on different farms in Jangali and Kwaga in Birnin Gwari Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

Ishaq Usman Kasai, Chairman, Birnin-Gwari Emirate Progressive Union (BEPU), disclosed this in a statement issued on Thursday, adding that the assailants had given farmers till Friday to pay N12m levies before they could harvest their crops.

He said the incident happened on Tuesday and Wednesday.

He also said the bandits informed some farming communities including Kwaga, Kwanan-Shehu, Unguwan Liman, and Unguwan Shekarau to pay levies running into N12 million (3 million each) before they could be allowed to continue harvesting their crops.

The union said the six people kidnapped at the Farm Centre last Saturday in Kwaga Community, were released on Wednesday after the bandits collected 20 mudus (bowls) of rice, 20 mudus of beans, 25 litres of red oil, 25 litres of groundnut oil and call cards worth N10,000.

It added that four people from Unguwan Liman, who were kidnapped last Saturday, and one resident of Unguwan

Shekarau were released on Wednesday after payment of N2.5 million ransom, respectively.

BEPU appealed to the government to come to the aid of the Kurgan communities in order to allow them to harvest their crops without any harm or intimidation.

Calls made to the Police Public Relations Officer in the state, DSP Mohammed Jalinge, were not answered.

In another attack Wednesday night, armed men invaded the Wusasa area in Zaria, killing one person and kidnapping three others.

The Village head of Wusasa, Isiyaku Yusuf, who confirmed the incident, said the bandits came in numbers and invaded the residence of one Dr Oderinde.

"The young man who was alleged to have been killed was one Oluwakemi Israel Oluwatosin, while those abducted were Douglas Silas, Treasure Yohanna Victor and the son of the landlord, Precious Oderinde.

"The bandits shot at the door and unfortunately the tenant was hiding behind the door, so he was instantly shot at the chest and died."

The village head lamented that seven persons had lost their lives in banditry attacks in recent times in the area.

When contacted, the PPRO said he was in a meeting as and pledged to call back. He had yet to do so at the time of filing this report.