

Bandits kill mother, newborn, others in Sokoto

- 7 killed in reprisal ● Pastor killed in Kogi despite N1m ransom
- Security chiefs shun Reps' summon

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A nursing mother identified as Sharifa Noma was burnt to death along with one of her twin babies, one hour after delivery in a dastardly attack by bandits.

This comes as a pastor of the Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA), David Musa, who was reportedly abducted by gunmen, suspected to be kidnappers on Monday from his farm in Obajana, LGA of Kogi State was killed after collecting a ransom.

A source said Sharifa had delivered the babies around 2:30 am on Tuesday at home, adding: "After losing too much blood, her family decided to take her to the hospital for possible blood infusion."

On the way to the hospital, the source said, their vehicle rammed into a roadblock erected by bandits along Ruwa Wuri-Bugawa Road in Tangaza Local Government Area of Sokoto State.

"The bandits opened fire on the vehicle and succeeded in hitting the driver who lost its control and the vehicle skidded off the road and hit a tree before bursting into fire."

"The driver, the mother and one of the twin babies were burnt to death," the source added.

Another resident of the community who identified himself as Kabiru noted that other passengers including the second twin survived with injuries and were currently receiving treatment in the hospital.

Similarly, the bandits were said to have between Sunday and Wednesday killed four other persons and abducted about 30 others in multiple attacks in the area.

The communities attacked include Gidan Kakale where five persons were said to be abducted; Ruwa Wuri's road where they shot a driver of a commercial vehicle who was identified as Nasir Alhaji Sule and burnt down the vehicle with some of its passengers.

They also attacked Alela Sutti village where they were said to have abducted women and their children before invading Alkasu village where they killed four persons, injured three, and abducted 17 others.

A resident of Tangaza, who confirmed the incidents on condition of anonymity, said immediately after the burial of the burnt nursing mother and her daughter, some youths and vigilantes attacked some neighbouring Fulani communities and set houses ablaze.

According to our source, several people were killed and injured during the attack.

He attributed rampant cases of bandits' attacks in the area to the presence of Tsauna and Kuyan bana forests, which stretches over to the Niger Republic.

When contacted, the spokesman for the Sokoto Police Command, ASP Ahmad Rufai promised to get back to our reporter when properly briefed about the incidents.

Kogi pastor killed after N1m ransom

Meanwhile, a pastor of the Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA), David Musa, who was reportedly abducted from his farm in Obajana, LGA of Kogi State, has been killed by his abductors after collecting a ransom.

In a statement, the Church said his abductors had demanded N20m, and that N1m was delivered to them.

The statement reads in part: "It is with heavy heart, but in total submission to the will of God, we write to inform you that the abductors of our brother, Pastor Musa David, have killed him after collecting a ransom of N1m."

"Let our prayers be with the family, the Church and the DCC in this trying moment."

The state's police command's spokesman said the command was aware of the incident and that the Commissioner of Police, CP Onuoha Benthland, had ordered a squad to move in immediately and arrest the perpetrators.

Security Chiefs, IGP shun Reps invitation, Senate issues fresh summons

Amid the increasing attacks on communities, the House of Representatives had summoned Nigeria's security chiefs to explain why things continued to degenerate in the country.

However, the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Christopher Musa; Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Lt-General Taoreed Lagbaja; Chief of Air Staff (CAS), Air Marshal Hassan Abubakar, and Chief of Naval Staff (CNS), Vice Admiral Emmanuel Ogalla and the Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Kayode Egbetokun reportedly failed to honour the invitation to appear before the House of Representatives on Thursday.

This is even as the Senate yesterday equally summoned the military chiefs and heads of other security agencies to brief it in a closed session on steps to address the country's acute insecurity.

The service chiefs were invited to appear before the Reps yesterday as part of the Sectorial Debates introduced by the House pursuant to Order 17, Rules 1(3) of the Standing Orders of the House.

They were to meet the parliament on their constitutional responsibilities to ensure the security of lives and property as

well as the territorial integrity of the nation.

However, all the service chiefs as well as the IGP sent in representatives who were sent back by the House on the grounds that the heads were to appear in person.

The representatives were introduced into the chamber after a motion by the House Leader, Prof. Julius Ihonvbere (APC, Edo), which was seconded by Aliyu Sani Madaki (NNPP, Kano).

But after the self-introduction by the representatives of the service chiefs and the IGP, the Deputy Speaker, Benjamin Kalu, objected, saying that although the representatives were competent in their capacities, they would not be allowed to speak on behalf of their principals.

In a fresh summons, the Senate on Thursday invited the military chiefs and heads of other security agencies to brief it in a closed session on steps to address the country's acute insecurity.

This followed a motion by Senator Abdulaziz Yar'Adua (Katsina).

While recalling the recent wanton killings and kidnappings, the lawmaker said the contemporary security landscape in Nigeria poses unprecedented challenges that outstrip the protective capabilities of any security agency alone.

He said, "The fight against insurgency and other novel security crises requires the collaboration of all the relevant security agencies and MDAs."

"The primary focus of security agencies should be directed at making Nigeria safe."

"The insecurity in Nigeria can only be tackled if all security agencies and parastatals that play key roles in national security work in synergy under a centralised command structure to ensure that the country is highly secure."

"This cooperative effort reinforces the interdependence and interrelatedness of Nigerian security agencies."

After debate on the motion, the Senate urged the security agencies to improve and enhance their inter-operational synergy and coordination for the effective and holistic tackling of the various types of insecurity plaguing the nation.

It also asked the security agencies to develop a National Security Policy document outlining the framework for an improved and streamlined synergy and coordination between the various security agencies.

It further called on the agencies to embark on joint training to enhance their capabilities and effectiveness in dealing with all forms of security challenges bedevilling the nation.