

Bandits kill 2, abduct 20 in fresh attack on Sokoto community

From Abubakar Auwal,
Sokoto

● Abductors of monarch lower ransom to N500m

Bandits have killed two people and abducted 20 others in a recent attack on Tsamaye community, located in the Sabon Birni Local Government Area of Sokoto State.

The assault occurred in the early hours of Tuesday, only a short distance from where the District Head of Gatawa, Isa Muhammad Bawa, along with his son and brother, were previously kidnapped.

Aminu Boza, the member

representing Sabon Birni South Constituency in the state House of Assembly, confirmed the attack. He reported that 18 of the abducted individuals are women.

"The bandits struck during the night, killing two people and injuring one, who is currently receiving medical treatment," Boza said. "In total, they kidnapped 20 people, including 18 women."

Boza criticised the federal government's current approach to combating banditry in the Northwestern region. He argued

that negotiations have proven ineffective and called for a more aggressive response.

"The federal government's preference for negotiation is not working. The only thing the terrorists fear is military action. Negotiations do not compel them to surrender their weapons; instead, they leave behind operatives to continue their attacks on innocent people. The government should reconsider its strategy and launch a comprehensive military campaign against them," Boza

asserted.

In response to the escalating violence, Governor Ahmed Aliyu has convened an emergency security meeting to address the renewed attacks across Sokoto State.

Meanwhile, following ongoing negotiations, the gunmen who kidnapped the district head of Gatawa, his son, and his brother have reportedly reduced their ransom demand to N500 million, according to Daily Trust sources.

Initially, the bandits had demanded N1 billion for

their release, a sum the family deemed exorbitant and sought a reduction.

A resident of Sabon Birni, who wished to remain anonymous, confirmed that the ransom was lowered to N500 million. The resident expressed doubt about the family's ability to raise such a significant amount, even if they sold all their assets.

"I don't think the family can come up with this amount, even if they liquidate all their property," the resident said. "Negotiations are ongoing, and we hope the ransom will be reduced further to an amount the family can afford."