

Bandits attack Bakura LGA

At least six people were reportedly killed and 45 others, mostly women and children, abducted in Bakura LGA of Zamfara State after an attack.

It was gathered that the armed bandits raided five communities-Sabongarin Damri, Sade, Tungar Tsalle, Tungar Musa Dogo and Tungar Sodangi, after they failed to pay the levies imposed on them by the bandits.

According to locals, the bandits invaded the affected communities in the night for the operation that lasted for almost one and a half hours.

“The bandits invaded the villages in the night, kidnapped women and children and also rustled cows. However, the cows they carted away were later recovered after members of the local vigilante engaged them in a gun fight while passing through a village.

“Also, three men out of the 45 persons abducted escaped from the bandits and returned to their families the following day. But the remaining kidnap victims are still in captivity,” a local in Sabongarin Damri said.

Daily Trust gathered that the operation was allegedly carried out by a notorious bandit leader popularly known as Black.

Black, it was learnt, is a known ruthless bandit kingpin, terrorising communities in Raba and Gandi areas of Sokoto state.

The terrorist is said to have a big camp in Sobubu, a thick forest that stretches from Bakura local government through Bukkuyum, Taki-Takwas and is linked to Zuru Local Government Area of Kebbi State.

Another resident of Sabongarin Damri, who doesn't want to be named, said: “What happened was that the bandits' leader, Black, imposed levies on some communities, including Sabongarin Damri, and residents of the affected communities met and resolved that they should not pay the levies.

“However, leaders of some of the communities went behind us and settled their levies. So, when the time for payment elapsed, the bandits invaded the communities that had not paid and abducted people.

“So, it is a betrayal among the communities. We have all agreed that we will not pay the liveries, but unfortunately, some of us went and settled theirs. That's what led to the attack.

“The bandits have specific targets this time around, and therefore, they went straight to the villages that have not settled their levies and raided them. It was unfortunate that six people lost their lives during the attack,” he said.

A member of the local vigilante group in Sabongarin Damri told our reporter that their intention was to confront the bandits when they came, but they did not receive intelligence about their coming.

“When the communities in Bakura met, it was resolved that levies should not be paid; instead, we should wait for the bandits to come, unfortunately, some people deceived us. Even at that, had we gotten information of their coming ahead, we would have confronted them, but the bandits took us unawares,” he said.