

Bandits kill 2 worshippers in Sokoto mosque, abduct 6 others

Suspected bandits launched a deadly attack on Marnona community in Wurno Local Government Area of Sokoto State, killing two worshippers and abducting six others.

The attack occurred on Saturday night shortly after the Isha prayer.

A resident, who wished to be anonymous, told Daily Trust that the assailants stormed the community while worshippers were still in the mosque due to heavy rainfall.

“They opened fire inside the mosque, killing one person on the spot. A second victim, initially injured, later died in the hospital on Monday. They abducted six people from the mosque.

“It has been a while since we faced such an attack, so we relaxed our guard. But now, fear has returned. People are scared to go back to their farm,” the resident said.

The latest attack follows a brutal incident just a week earlier in the same community, where bandits killed two farmers and abducted 14 others, most of them children under the age of 10.

“Some of the children had gone to deliver food to their parents or to fetch food from the farm. Many didn’t come back,” the resident said

It was gathered that there are ongoing negotiations over ransom demands, though the exact amount remains unknown.

“Currently, there are discussions about paying ransom. Although I don’t know exactly how much they are demanding, because I am not among those communicating with them, I am certain that they are the ones requesting ransom. I just don’t know how much.

“There is a need to increase the number of security personnel, as people are now afraid to go to their farms,” the source added.

Reacting to the incident, the Sokoto State Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Alhaji Isa Sadiq Achida, condemned the incident, describing it as “barbaric” and “an act of cowardice.”

“Targeting worshippers in a sacred place of prayer shows the moral bankruptcy of the perpetrators. This attack is not only an assault on human lives but also on our collective faith and values,” he said.

Achida assured the public that both the state government and security agencies are working tirelessly to address the resurgence of banditry.

The spokesman for the Sokoto State Police Command, DSP Ahmad Rufa'i, confirmed the attack but said he had yet to receive a full briefing from the officer in charge of the affected area.

Security sources believe the attackers may have originated from camps in the forested areas between Sokoto and Zamfara states, an area known as a hideout for armed criminal groups.