

## Herder killed, farmers, travellers abducted in Niger

One herder has been reportedly killed while an unspecified number of farmers and travellers have been kidnapped in a series of attacks on communities in Mariga, Magama, Kontagora and Rijau local government areas of Niger State.

Locals told our correspondent that the attacks, which started on Monday, September 1, 2025, have continued daily as bandits in their numbers have continued to move from community to community, kidnapping residents and rustling cattle.

Among the communities raided between Monday, September 1, 2025, and Sunday, September 7, 2025, were Atabo, Zoma, Mailema, Dusai in Mariga, Kontagora and Magama LGAs.

Similarly, on Monday, September 1, 2025, farmers told *Daily Trust* that bandits invaded Dappo village in Tungan Wawa Ward, Kontagora LGA of the state, shot three people – Sani Ibrahim, Umar Umar and Khadijah Jatau on the thighs while attempting to escape, and kidnapped another woman, Yetti Dappo and a man, Jatau Dappo.

The injured victims were reportedly admitted to the Tungan Wawa Primary Healthcare Centre.

Mallam Abbas Yunusa, said during the attack on Atabo on Saturday, a herdsman was shot dead while resisting bandits from taking away his cattle.

Another attack was launched around 9pm on Thursday on Unguwan-Usubu, in Kawo Ward, Kontagora LGA.

Residents told *Daily Trust* that during the attack, the attackers abducted one Muhammadu Baban-Tambaya.

Sources said the renewed attacks have posed security threats to residents and necessitated immediate security deployment to the affected LGAs.

On Saturday, residents of Kontagora told *Daily Trust* that bandits invaded Melehe town in Kontagora LGA and kidnapped the principal of Junior Secondary School Melehe, and a Fulani woman identified as Amina Runtoje.

The attack reportedly occurred around 9pm. Sources said bandits disguised in hijabs and sat in front of the targeted residence, conversing like young women to avoid suspicion before launching the attack.

One of the sources said, “They sat there in hijabs for about two hours without anyone noticing they were bandits. We thought they were women. Around 10pm, they forced their way into the house, and abducted their victims.”

Also on Saturday morning, bandits invaded the Usubu neighbourhood in the Gamu-Gaku area of Kontagora and abducted two nursing mothers.

When contacted, Chief Press Secretary to the Niger State Governor, Bologi Ibrahim, said he was going to contact the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Homeland Security, to comment on the renewed attacks.

After waiting for several hours to revert, our correspondent called him again, but his calls went unanswered.

Also, the spokesperson for the Niger State Police Command, SP Wasiu Abiodun, did not respond to messages sent to his phone number after placing unsuccessful calls to his phone.

Recently, the state governor, Mohammed Umaru Bago, while appearing on an Arise TV programme, said there were no longer security challenges in the state.

He also said the Internally Displaced Persons camps are all empty due to improved security in the state.

From Ahmed Ali (Kafanchan), Mumini Abdulkareem (Ilorin), Ado Abubakar Musa (Jos) & Abubakar Akote (Minna)