

# 4 police officers, passerby gunned down in Kogi

Gunmen yesterday killed four police officers and a passerby in two separate attacks on police checkpoints in Kogi State

The first attack occurred in Abugi village, Lokoja Local Government Area where two officers and a civilian were shot dead.

In the second incident, bandits ambushed a checkpoint along Ilafin Road in Isanlu, Yagba East LGA, killing two policemen.

Residents of Abugi said the gunmen, riding on motorcycles, stormed the checkpoint along Abugi-Gugurugi Road around 10.30am, opened fire on unsuspecting officers, and killed them instantly.

A young man, whose identity is yet to be confirmed, was also shot dead at the scene.

Witnesses said the attackers fired sporadically to ward off resistance before seizing the officers' rifles and fleeing.

Around 11am yesterday, another group of gunmen launched an ambush at a checkpoint in Isanlu, killing two police officers.

Efforts to reach the Kogi State Police Command spokesperson, SP William Aya, were unsuccessful, as he did not respond to calls or text messages at the time of filing this report.



■ A nursing mother watching the level of destruction after the attack

A resident, Babagbemi Oyekanmi, expressed concern over the rising insecurity, saying the attacks suggested bandits were deliberately targeting security personnel to steal their rifles.

He recalled a similar incident in Egbe, Yagba West LGA, on September 9, where five security operatives were killed and their

weapons carted away.

Reacting to Sunday's killings, the chairman of Yagba East LGA, Joshua Dare, described them as "a calculated attempt by enemies of peace to destabilize the society and instil fear."

He praised the slain officers as martyrs of peace and urged unity against criminal elements.

The Kogi State government

had last week accused some youths and residents in Okunland of supplying food and weapons to bandits.

The state's Security Adviser, Navy Commander Jerry Omadara (rtd), recently warned that anyone found collaborating with criminals would henceforth be treated as a terrorist.

Timeline of security operatives' killings in September