

## National

## Bandits kill one, abduct three in Katsina

By Danjuma Michael,  
Katsina

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Suspected bandits on Sunday night killed a man, Ibrahim Usman, in Jibia town, Jibia Local Government Area of Katsina State.

It was learnt that the bandits also invaded the house of a businessman, Tasiu Wali, where they abducted his wife, Asmau, her one-year-old baby, Husna, and a 20-year-old man, Abu Abu.

The three were whisked away into the neighbouring Rugu Forest, an area notorious for being used as hideout by bandits.

It was gathered that the incident occurred at about 11pm when the bandits, in their numbers, stormed the town, shooting sporadically to scare residents away.

It was unclear at time of this report if the bandits had called the businessman and asked him to pay ransom for his abducted family members.

Katsina State, which had experienced high level of insecurity posed by bandits, kidnappers and rustlers in past months, had, until the Sunday incident, enjoyed relative peace.

The state government, worried by the security problem, had met with leaders of some of the suspected bandits and reached an agreement with them to end their nefarious acts.

Part of the agreement was that some suspected bandits in custody of security operatives would be released and there would be provision of amenities to designated communities where repentant bandits and their family members can enjoy them.

The bandits, on their part, agreed to release residents they had kidnapped, especially those living in communities in about eight local council areas situated close to the Rugu Forest.

Spokesman for the police command in the state, Gambo Isah confirmed the incident.

“At about 8.45pm on Sunday, bandits, in their numbers on motorcycles, invaded the house of Alhaji Tasiu Wali in Jibia town and abducted his wife, Hajiya Asmau Tasiu, alongside her one-year-old baby daughter, Husna Tasiu and one Abu Abu. All of them were whisked into the forest. A stray bullet fired as a result of their sporadic shooting hit one Ibrahim Usman who later died while receiving treatment at a hospital.

“The men of Operations Puff Adder and Sharandaji, including SARS patrol teams, are presently combing the forest with a view to arresting the bandits. Investigation is ongoing,” he said.

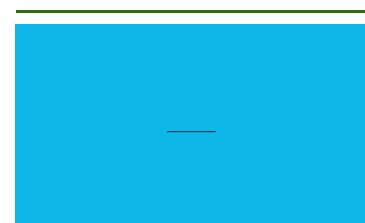
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