



National

Police kill six bandits, rescue corps members in Katsina

By Danjuma Michael,
Katsina

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Four members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), who were abducted by bandits on Monday night in Katsina, have been rescued by the police at Doka Forest in Faskari council area of the state.

Six of the hoodlums lost their lives in the gun duel while two rifles and several ammunition were recovered during the confrontation that happened on Wednesday morning. The exercise also led to the arrest of a bandit.

It was learnt that the police were led to the criminals' hideout by repentant bandits. At about 11:30pm on Monday, attackers donning military uniform in Funtua council area had waylaid an 18-seater bus heading for neighbouring Zamfara State. Among the passengers were 13 prospective corps members who were on their way for the three-week orientation camp.



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Unfortunately four of them, three males and a female, were whisked away after their cash and personal effects as well as those of others in the vehicle had been seized by the assailants.

The captives narrated that they were forced to trek a whole day and sleep on a rocky terrain prior to their freedom. Spokesman for the state police command, SP Gambo Isah, confirmed the incident.

"On March 9, 2020 at about 23:30hrs, bandits in their numbers, and armed with AK47 rifles, blocked Funtua-Gusau road in Funtua LG of Katsina State, stopped an 18-seater bus with registration number ANK 72 XA driven by one Sanusi Ibrahim, heading for Zamfara State," he explained.

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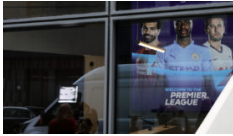
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The spokesman added that the bandits “kidnapped all the 18 passengers, comprising 13 NYSC members and five others. The Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of Makera and his team responded to the distress call and arrived at the time timely.”

He went on: “On arrival, the team searched the nearby bush and rescued 14 passengers made up of nine NYSC members and five civilians while four other corps members and one civilian were whisked away by the fleeing bandits.

“The search party, led by O/C SARS Katsina in collaboration with repentant bandits, led by one Ado Haliru, and other teams went after the bandits up to Doka Forest in Faskari LGA of Katsina State.

“Subsequently, today (Wednesday) at about 09:00hrs, the team succeeded in locating the camp of the kidnappers, engaged them in a fierce gun duel and rescued the remaining four NYSC members and a civilian.

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“Furthermore, the team succeeded and killed six of the kidnappers, recovered one AK47 rifle, one LAR rifle, seven rounds of 7.62mm and 12 rounds of 7.67mm ammunition from the bandits.

“All the NYSC members are from Akure, Ondo State heading to the NYSC Orientation Camp at Tsafe, Zamfara State.”The corps members and the rest passengers were on Wednesday evening presented to Governor Aminu Masari at Government House.

Commending the security agents for the rescue, the governor warned against night trips, especially on roads known to have security challenges during odd hours.

The meeting saw the state government donating N100, 000 each to the prospective corps members. They thereafter opted to observe their service year in Katsina instead of Zamfara.



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