

# Kidnappers kill DSS operative in Katsina after collecting N5m ransom

By Odita Sunday

SUSPECTED kidnappers have killed a 33-year-old operative of the Department of State Services (DSS), Sadiq Bindawa, in Katsina State, after collecting N5 million ransom from his friends and relatives.

It was gathered that the late Bindawa was abducted on Saturday, few hours after he arrived Katsina from Abuja, where he was serving.

According to an eyewitness, the kidnappers were said to have trailed him to his house located behind the Federal Secretariat Complex, Dandagoro area, Katsina, at about 10:30p.m

The kidnappers first attacked the private security guards at the entrance of the building before whisking Bindawa off to an unknown place.

It was further learnt that the kidnappers



Bindawa

later contacted his family and friends through his phone and demanded N13 million ransom. It was later reduced to N5 million but Bindawa's body was discovered at Kurfi town on Sunday morning after the payment was made.

"We went to Kurfi on Sunday, hoping to pick him as directed but we saw only his body with parts of the body riddled with bullets. We reported the incident at the Batagarawa Police Station," a friend said.

Another source, a relative of the deceased, said: "The abductors demanded N5 million ransom, which was given to them at an agreed point on Sunday. However, after receiving the ransom, they were ambushed by security operatives who were monitoring them, and a shootout occurred.

"Following the firefight, many armed bandits were killed, others fled with bullet

wounds and the money. Those that escaped went back to the den and shot dead Bindawa. His body was later found in the bush," the source said, saying the family was briefed by the SSS who, however, told them not to talk to journalists.

The spokesman for the Katsina State Police Command, Gambo Isah, referred enquiry on the incident to the DSS. He said: "Please, go to the DSS office for any clarification you want to make. They are security agents like the police and they have their public relations unit."

Efforts to speak with the DSS in Katsina were unsuccessful. The spokesperson for the DSS headquarters, Peter Afunanya, did not return calls or reply a message sent to him.

Bindawa's body was buried in Katsina on Monday. Meanwhile, his friends have taken to Facebook to mourn his death.

## Abiola's children freed after 13 days in detention