One dies as youths protest against insecurity in Katsina

By Danjuma Michael (Katsina) and Joke Falaju (Abuja)

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A protest by youths in Jibia Council of Katsina State over lingering insecurity in the area has left one person dead and several others injured.

It was learned that youths, in their numbers, took to the streets yesterday morning. They set bonfires while wielding sticks and other weapons.

Blocking the road linking Jibia and Katsina metropolitan area, they chanted slogans to portray their displeasure over the security problem.

One of the protesters said on condition of anonymity that they were protesting because the security problem had continued unabated for more than a month now.

He said: "We are protesting because it has been one security problem or another perpetuated by bandits, in several communities in Jibia. For more than 30 days now, it has been killing here, kidnap and rape there, and the rustling of animals elsewhere.

"Bandits came to Yangaiya village recently and they told a man to give them money or cattle, but he didn't have any of these. They forced his sister-in-law to lie down and be raped, and she told them she was menstruating. They ignored her plea and raped her."

The protesters urged the government to quickly address the problem of insecurity in the area to avert further protests.



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Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP Gambo Isah, confirmed the incident, adding that the command had mobilised to address the situation.

IN Kaduna State, gunmen have abducted the Chairman of Kaura Council, Mr. Humble Katuka.

A source close to the Katuka family said the council boss was whisked away by the gunmen when he was going to inspect his farm around Juju village in Chikun Council.

"The chairman was kidnapped on his way to the farm on Sunday. The farm is located somewhere around Kiduni in Chikun. I understand that a motorcyclist was taking him to the farm. The bandits shot at them and killed the bike man and kidnapped the chairman," the source said.

Spokesman of the Kaduna State Police Command, Mr. Mohammed Jalige, did not respond to telephone calls and text messages sent to his mobile phone.

MEANWHILE, the National Association of Seadogs (NAS) has expressed concern over the rising cases of kidnapping, armed robbery, and rape in the Federal Capital Territory and environs.

Also known as Pyrates Confraternity, the group said Abuja residents were getting accustomed to waking up to the gory tales of insecurity in the city.

The leader of Abuja Sahara Deck, Victor Ofili, lamented the incessant kidnapping around Kwali, Gwagalada, Bwari and Kuje councils, adding that 'one chance' robbery was on the increase around the city centres, as the green taxis were also used.

"It is expected that people living in the FCT and contiguous states like Kogi and Nasarawa should enjoy greater feeling of security by reason of proximity to the seat of power. Sadly, this has not been the case in recent months," he said.



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