

Four killed as gunmen abduct Katsina deputy Speaker's sister

From Danjuma Michael, Katsina

Four children of Funtua LG admin head kidnapped

FOUR people have lost their lives following twin attacks on Sunday night by gunmen at Faskari and Dandume local councils of Katsina State.

① The gunmen killed two people and injured many residents at Mahuta community in Dandume.

② At Tafoki community of Faksari, a shootout between the gunmen and vigilante personnel led to death of two bandits, with several injuries on both sides.

The Tafoki incident, according to sources, occurred

when bandits stormed the community to abduct the father to the House of Assembly Deputy Speaker, Shehu Tafoki.

A source told *The Guardian*: "The lawmaker's father, Dalhatu Tafoki, is the head of the community, and the bandits stormed the area with the aim of abducting him. But they were unable to do so, as some residents and members of the vigilante group repelled them.

"Two of the bandits were killed, but the gang was

able to escape with two of the lawmaker's sisters. However, one of them later escaped."

The deputy speaker, who confirmed the incident, said his abducted sister was planning to wed in the coming weeks.

In a related development, gunmen have abducted four children of the administrative head of Funtua Local Council, Hamza Umar.

The incident also occurred on Sunday night, at

Sabuwar Kasa community, in Kafur Local Council.

It is not clear if the kidnapers have reached out for ransom, even as security personnel and vigilante groups were said to be making efforts at locating the victims and their abductors.

The incident came less than 24 hours after gunmen abducted the wife and children of the lawmaker representing Bakori council at the House of Assembly, Dr. Ibrahim Kurami.