

Gunmen invade Kogi market, kill one, abduct another, demand N20m ransom

From Ibrahim Obansa.

Lokoja

3

SUSPECTED gunmen, yesterday, invaded Oriemarket at Agbede Community, Apayan in Igalamela/Odolu Local Council of Kogi State and killed one person.

They also abducted one person and demanded N20 million as ransom.

The Guardian gathered that the hoodlums stormed the market on Sunday in their numbers at about 2:00p.m. and started shooting sporadically to scare away people in the market.

Their action resulted in pandemonium, while one Johnson, who was hit by bullet, died in the process.

Another person, whose identity is yet to be ascertained, was abducted and whisked to an unknown place.

It was learnt that family members of the abductee have been contacted and a demand of N20 million ransom made for his release.

Sources told *The Guardian* that the incident was the third time in a row when suspected gunmen would attack the market, abduct

people and later demand for ransom.

Investigations further revealed that the suspected hoodlums are taking advantage of thick forest between Apayan in the council and the boundary between Enugu and Anambra states to perpetrate their evil act.

Sources further revealed that the people of Agbede community in Apayain District of Igalamela/Odolu Local Council of Kogi State have continued to appeal to the state government and security agencies in the state to come to their aid from incessant attacks on defenceless people on market days.

Contacted, Kogi State Police Public Relations officer, Willy Aya, confirmed that it was a case of invasion of one Johnson's shop who was killed, while one Edwin was abducted along with others on the market day.

He said that the state's Police Command under the Commissioner of Police, Edward Egbuka, has mobilised officers to fish out the hoodlums and rescue the abducted person unhurt.