

Gunmen Kill Driver, Abduct Judge, 13 Passengers In Katsina, Nasarawa

Gunmen killed a driver identified as Adamu Usman and abducted 13 passengers along Shafa Abakpa-Umaisha Road in Toto Local Government Area of Nasarawa State.

Similarly, the Katsina State Police Command has confirmed the abduction of a Shari'ah Court Judge by unknown gunmen on Tuesday evening.

It was learnt that the dead driver, who was shot thrice on the abdomen, died while being treated at the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital Tuesday night.

Ibrahim Saidu, a driver, who narrowly escaped the attack, said the incident happened about 5p.m.

He said the kidnappers in their large numbers emerged from the bush and attacked four vehicles coming from Ugya village.

He said the vehicles were conveying passengers from Ugya to Abaji and Toto town when they were attacked.

Saidu said the kidnappers surrounded the vehicles after the driver lost control and whisked away 13 passengers, including a middle-aged woman, into the bush.

"In fact, I was driving behind the four vehicles in front of me, but it was God that saved me when I stopped at one of the village to pick a passenger. As I was coming, I heard gunshot and immediately made a U-turn," he said.

While commenting on the incident, the Ohimegye of Opanda-Umaisha, His Royal Majesty (HRM) Usman Abdullahi, said bandits hiding in forest along the axis have been terrorising travellers.

"There are some remnants of bandits that are terrorising our people along this axis, which I am appealing to the state government to collaborate with Federal Government to see how these bandits are flushed out completely," he said.

Gunmen Abduct Katsina Judge In Court

Similarly, the Katsina State Police Command has confirmed the abduction of a Shari'ah Court Judge by unknown gunmen on Tuesday evening.

The Command's Public Relations Officer, SP Gambo Isah, confirmed the incident in an interview with newsmen on Wednesday in Katsina.

He said that the incident occurred about 3p.m in the old court premises located between Baure and Zakka villages in Safana Local Government Area.

He said that the court had been relocated to Safana due to security challenges in the area, and it was not clear why the judge went there without security cover.

Isa said that all courts in the state had been under lock due to the strike by judiciary

workers.

"Yes, it is true that the judge, Hussaini Samaila, has been abducted while the courts are on strike. The court had stopped sitting in that area for long.

"The judge went to the area alone to take something in the court without a court orderly or police escort, knowing fully the insecurity challenges in that area.

"Even if he has to go there, he should have asked for security cover and we would have given him considering his position.

"We are investigating the issue to find out the reality, and why he should put himself in such danger," he said.

Bandits Set Church On Fire, Kill Eight Persons In Kaduna

Meanwhile, a building housing the Assemblies of God Church in Ungwan Gaida community, near Kurmin Kaso, Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State, has been set ablaze by armed bandits.

At least eight persons were killed in the attack while several houses were torched.

Samuel Aruwan, Commissioner for Internal Security and Home Affairs, who confirmed the attacks, identified those killed as Samaila Gajere, Bawa Gajere, Bitrus Baba, Umaru Baba, Solomon Samaila, Sambo Kasuwa, Samuila Kasuwa, and Gideon Bitrus.

Aruwan said Governor Nasir El-Rufai condemned the attack on the place of worship, and directed the State Emergency Management Agency to carry out an urgent assessment of the damage done by the invaders.

Aruwan also said troops of the Nigerian Navy "neutralised three bandits" and arrested two accomplices after repelling an attack on Wakwodna community near Kasso village, still in Chikun LGA.

According to him, the troops stationed at the Kuja-ma checkpoint foiled the attack at Wakwodna following a tip-off.

He said bandits fled into surrounding bushes on sighting the troops, and abandoned some rustled cattle, which were rounded up and returned to their owners.

"The troops arrested a suspected bandits' informant, Kapido Halilu, and a logistics supplier, Umar Maipashi. Food and medical supplies meant for the bandits were confiscated. The suspects were taken into custody for further investigation," he said.

He said El-Rufai noted the report of the attack on Ungwan Gaida with sadness, and consoled the families of the slain citizens, as he offered prayers for the repose of their souls.