

Gunmen Abduct 6 Pupils In Nasarawa, 13 In Edo, Kill 3

BY PATRICK OCHOGA, BENIN CITY, WITH AGENCY REPORT

Police in Nasarawa State yesterday confirmed the abduction of some pupils of LGEA Primary School, Alwaza in Doma local government area of the state when gunmen were said to have attacked the school at about 7:00 am.

LEADERSHIP Weekend gathered that six pupils were abducted by the gunmen who used motorcycles.

The state's police spokesman, DSP Rahman Nansel who confirmed the incident, said a joint team of the police, military and vigilante members had been mobilised to go after the criminals. The whereabouts of the children was not known at press time yesterday.

Elsewhere in Edo State, gunmen suspected to be herdsmen on Wednesday killed three persons and abducted 13 other persons in Emokpae

community in Ovia North East local government area of the state.

Addressing newsmen at the Edo State Government House during a peaceful protest, the leader of a group, Commander Egua, said the incident happened on Wednesday afternoon.

He said a bus conveying children who were returning from school and market women were accosted by suspected herdsmen and were taken into the forest.

Egua said the herdsmen who appeared from the bush killed three persons while others were still being held.

"I am commander Egua, commander in charge of Agor Emokpae environ under Edo State Security Network. Yesterday, as at 3pm, when our children were returning from school from the neighbouring community, the herdsmen invaded the road, took our

children even the bike men that went to take them from the school, they were also kidnapped in the process.

"One minibus that was taking passengers to the nearby community was stopped and the passengers were also kidnapped. As we speak, 15 persons have been kidnapped and three of them have already been killed by the herdsmen," he said.

Egua said they had decided to take the protest to the Government House, having heard about how the governor mobilised all security agencies in the state to rescue the over 20 train passengers kidnapped by herdsmen recently at Igueben.

"So, the government should rise up and act fast," he said.

When asked if the kidnappers have contacted them for ransom, he said, "The information we just got before we left the community, a woman that was also kidnapped in the community

has called her family saying the kidnappers asked her to bring N20m."

Another protester, Esther Matthew, appealed to the state government to help rescue her husband from the hands of the kidnappers.

"I am here to beg our governor, our father, to help me. They have kidnapped my husband and my son and my brother who went to rescue them, they have also killed him. We have seen his dead body," the 28 year old woman said.

Also lamenting the adoption of her children, Mrs Gift Omoruyi said her two children were kidnapped.

"My two children were coming from school when they were kidnapped. The boy is 13 while the girl is 15," she said.

When contacted, the Edo State Police Public Relations Officer, SP Chidi Nwabuzor said he was not aware of the incident.