

In Niger State, bandits invaded Kuchi community in Munya local government area and killed eight residents. They also abducted 160 people and demanded N10 million to release each of the abductees, the residents of the area have claimed.

The bandits were said to have invaded the village on Friday night and Saturday morning, shooting randomly and ordering anybody they sighted to follow them.

It was learnt that no fewer than 300 bandits came on motorcycles and led the people they abducted into the forest adjoining Munya and Chikun in Kaduna State where they are said to have various camps.

A man who said his daughter and two grand-daughters were among those abducted, Danjuma Ahmed, said the bandits invaded their houses in the night and ordered them out, shooting those who tried to resist.

Another resident, Mohammed Dantala, said the bandits came in search of their GPRS, which the villagers said was with the village head, Alhassan Barde, but the village head told them he had given it to the government.

Dantala said the bandits, who were visibly annoyed, started moving from house to house.

“By the time they left we counted eight dead bodies and over 160 people were missing. Four security personnel who were offering skeletal services in the village were also abducted. They looted houses and shops, took away food stuff, provisions and drinks,” he added

Another villager Abdullahi said: “They are asking for N10 million for the release of each person and I learnt security personnel went after them and 25 of the bandits were neutralised.”

Attempts to get official confirmation were futile but a security source who preferred anonymity confirmed the incident and added that the joint security operatives in the area are on the trail of the bandits.