



Senate seeks tighter security countrywide

• District Head, nine others kidnapped, 11 killed in Niger

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Sanni Onogu (Abuja), and Justina Asishana (Minna)

The Senate on Wednesday urged the Inspector-General of Police Mohammed Adamu to beef up security across the country. The Upper Chamber also called on service chiefs and security agencies to immediately deploy personnel to parts of Niger State now under bandits attack.

On Tuesday, bandits abducted the District Head of Madaka in Kukoki, Rafi Local Government Area of the state, Alhaji Zakari Yau, his wife, and seven others.

Eleven persons were also killed in Koki community in Shiroro council area.

In Kukoki village, the bandits numbering over 20 on motorcycles were said to have invaded the village, going from house to house for over three hours looting goods and foodstuff.

Cattle and sheep were also rustled.

The Nation gathered that before security could come, the bandits had completed their operations and disappeared into the bush.

The state governor Abubakar Sani Bello has directed security agencies to flush out the bandits and bring them to book.

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The Senate resolutions were sequel to two motions during plenary moved by Senator Sani Musa (APC-Niger East) on the menace of bandits in his senatorial district, and Senator Sandy Onor (Cross River Central) on the incessant cases of militancy, coordinated killings and kidnapping in Boki Local Government Area of the state.

The Senate also urged the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently provide relief materials to the affected communities in Niger State.

The upper chamber further called on the IGP to ensure better security of life and property in Boki local government area and to establish a mobile police barracks in the headquarters local government for easy deployment to troubled spots.

In his lead debate, Musa said that "bandits have taken over, the whole villages around Shiroro Local Government.

"They came in their hundreds and most of them were on motorbikes and Hilux vans. I wonder how they have been able to work without any security agency intercepting them.

"I'm bringing this matter of urgency to this hallowed chamber to rise to the occasion.

The insecurity is becoming alarming and if we should allow it to continue, and we feel safe here, we are not safe.

"I urge this house to call the security chiefs to order. The security architecture in that area is not working. The bandits in Katsina and Zamfara are all in Niger. It is beyond the Nigeria police," he said.

Senator Onor said that President Muhammadu Buhari had spoken on the worrisome crisis involving three communities: Ise-Obendege, Boje and Sadom in Boki Local Government of Cross River State.

"Boki is a very critical and strategic Local Government in Cross River State and falls within my constituency.

"It is germane that this Senate should lend its voice to finding ways and means of ending this crisis that has claimed many lives and property," Onor lamented.

Senate President Ahmad Lawan said that the motion was a very serious one and urged the security agencies to act quickly.



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