

Three killed as bandits seize Kaduna-Abuja, Zaria-Funtua roads

HOURS after they were repelled and prevented by security operatives from kidnapping travellers, bandits, yesterday descended on Maigiginya community in Igabi Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

They killed two persons and injured two others.

The latest attack came barely eight days after armed bandits killed two persons and kidnapped many, including nine ABU students on the ever-busy Kaduna-Abuja Highway.

It also came a day after gunmen struck on Monday night, killing a driver and causing accidents where many were injured.

But, security operatives were reported to have foiled bandit attack on Zaria-Funtua

From AbdulGafar Alabelewe,
Kaduna

Road, Giwa Local Government Area in the early hours of yesterday.

Also yesterday, dare-devil bandits suspected to be kidnappers, invaded the staff quarters of Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, abducting a lecturer, his wife and daughter.

A source within the university told *The Nation* that, the suspected kidnappers were yet to contact the family of the abducted lecturer for ransom.

Speaking on the attack on Maigiginya community, a source, who preferred anonymity, said the gunmen who came on bikes, shot sporadically and killed two of their kinsmen.

The source said that, after killing two people and injuring two others, they broke

into shops and looted food-stuffs before they ran back into the bush.

"I am not sure whether they are kidnappers or armed robbers, because they did not kidnap anybody. They just stole food stuff after killing and ran away," the source said.

Confirming the three attacks in a statement, Kaduna State Commissioner for Internal Security and Home Affairs, Samuel Aruwan, said many of the bandits escaped into the forest with gunshot wounds.

According to the commissioner, Governor Nasir El-Rufai praised troops for the bravery and courage they exhibited in repelling the bandits on both Kaduna-Abuja and Zaria-Funtua roads.

Aruwan said: "The Kaduna State government has been

informed that troops of the Operation Thunder Strike (OPTS) late Monday night successfully repelled armed bandits on the Kaduna-Abuja Road.

"The armed bandits appeared along the pipeline axis of Kakau general area in an attempt to strike, when troops engaged and repelled them with superior fire power. Many of the bandits escaped into the forest with gunshot wounds, having been denied freedom of action.

"When troops cleared the road for traffic, it was discovered that a driver was hit by the bandits who were fleeing the location. Also, two buses ran into a ditch resulting in injuries to some passengers, who were rushed to the hospital by the security operatives."