

# Bandits kill family of six, others in attack on Benue community



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• *Abduct traditional ruler's two wives, six children in Taraba* • *Six pupils kidnapped in Nasarawa*

Bandits on Thursday attacked Abagana community opposite the Internally Displaced Persons camp located along Makurdi/Laafia road in [Benue State](#).

In another attack, 13 people were also abducted in Taraba and Nasarawa communities.

Reports said the bandits arrived Benue community at about 9 pm, shot sporadically, and killed eight people including a man and his wife, as well as their four children. "Last night (Thursday) at about 2100hrs suspected bandits invaded Abagana community opposite the IDP camp and killed many people.

"Eight corpses, including women and children, have been recovered and another eight people were seriously injured. They have been evacuated to the hospital for treatment.

"Some of the bodies were beheaded and the heads were taken away. A man with his wife and four children were all wiped out in the attack," a source from the community

said.

The Security Adviser to the governor of Benue State, Lt.Col Paul Hemba, while confirming the report, said that the attack was unprovoked as the villagers were already set to go to bed when the community was invaded.

The governor's aide said those killed in the attack include: Gbashaor Acho, Gbashaor Joseph, Anshe Dekera, Ancho Kpor, Eunice Gbashaor, Sewuese Gbashaor, Terlumun Ajah, Emberga Gbashaor, and Donald Gbashaor.

He expressed fears that the casualty could be more.

He added that two of those killed were IDPs while the bandits stole two motorcycles belonging to the villagers.

The Commissioner of Police, Benue State, Wale Abass, confirmed the attack and said he was at the scene of the incident.

About two years ago when the community was invaded by bandits, seven people were killed.

Traditional ruler's two wives, six children kidnapped in Taraba

Two wives and six children of the Chief of Mutum Biyu, Sani Suleiman Duna, have been kidnapped in Jalingo the Taraba State capital.

Police Spokesman in Taraba State, Abdullahi Usman, confirmed the kidnapping of the royal family members to The Nation on Friday, saying the victims were kidnapped in the early hours of Thursday.

"They came around 12 am on Thursday and then scaled over the fence and started breaking the doors. Then they were able to kidnap the wives and six children," Usman stated.

He added that the Police are "doing everything possible to ensure they are rescued and unhurt."

A former acting Commissioner for Information, Alhaji Alhassan Hamman Adama, a son of Mutum Biyu also confirmed the kidnapping of the traditional ruler's two wives and children.

Police confirm abduction of six pupils in Nasarawa

Also in Nasarawa, the Police in the state said some gunmen on motorcycles on Friday abducted six pupils of Local Government Education Authority (LGEA) Primary School Alwaza, Doma Local Government Area.

The Police Command's spokesperson, DSP Ramhan Nansel, according to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), confirmed the development to newsmen in Lafia.

Nansel said that preliminary investigation revealed that the pupils aged between seven and eight years were abducted on their way to school at about 7: a.m.

He added that a joint security team comprised of the police, military, and vigilante had been mobilised to the area for a search and rescue operation.

"We are on the trail of the abductors and the Commissioner of Police, Maiyaki Muhammed-Baba, has also visited the scene for on-the-spot assessment," he said.

Nansel said that the police had met with the management of the school and the parents of the victims.

He, therefore, called on the public to avail the police of any information that could lead to the rescue of the victims and the arrest of the perpetrators.