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FCT Police rescue kidnap victim after fierce gun duel



Three kidnappers killed in raid of forest hideout

The **Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Police Command** has rescued a kidnap victim, Nafiu Idris, following a 30-minute gun battle with kidnappers in the Guzape area of Abuja.

Idris, a staff of the FCT Department of Women Affairs, was abducted by three armed men outside his home in Karu on Wednesday night, September 17, at about 10:30 p.m.

He was tied up and taken to a cave where the abductors began negotiating ransom with his family.

The FCT Commissioner of Police, Ajao Adewale, told reporters on Friday that a joint security team comprising the police Anti-Kidnapping Unit, Guards Brigade of the Nigerian Army, DSS operatives, hunters, and vigilantes launched a clearance operation after the abduction.

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The gang's hideout was traced to Zinda Forest, behind the Nigerian Army Estate in Kurudu, bordering Nasarawa State.

CP Adewale disclosed that the gang's leader, who was among those neutralised, had masterminded several kidnappings across Karu, Guzape, Kurudu, and parts of Nasarawa State. He added that the gang had also attempted to abduct two young women earlier in the week and had planned another attack in Karu before being intercepted.

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When confronted, the kidnappers engaged the operatives in a fierce exchange of gunfire before three of them were killed. Idris was rescued unharmed.

Narrating his ordeal, Idris said: "They shot into the air before I was taken away. They took me to where I did not know, used a knife to tear my clothes and used their cloth to tie my hands and took me into a cave.

"It was there that they started communicating with my family. In the process, on Thursday, we heard the sound of a gun and we heard the police advancing toward us. So the kidnappers were afraid and moved away and left me in the cave. It was then that I stood up and followed another way in the cave. I met with the police who rescued me after killing the kidnappers. I thank God."

Items recovered at the scene of Nafiu's rescue included two AK-49 rifles, two magazines with seven rounds of live ammunition, charms, ATM cards, mobile phones, and cash.

The CP also revealed that 11 suspected drug dealers were arrested in separate operations across the FCT, with 68 bags of substances suspected to be cannabis and other illicit drugs recovered. He said the crackdown was part of efforts to weaken criminal networks and curb drug-related crimes.