

Police kill bandit, rescue 11 kidnapped victims in Zamfara

THE police command in Zamfara State says it has neutralised a notorious bandit in the state and rescued 11 kidnap victims.

According to the **News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)**, the command's Public Relations Officer, SP Muhammad Shehu, confirmed the development in a statement on Thursday in Gusau.

Shehu said: "Yesterday [Wednesday] at about 1:00 p.m., large number of bandits blocked Gusau-Sokoto road at Dogon Karfe axis, making commuters to scamper for safety.

"The police tactical operatives on patrol along the road quickly mobilised to the location.

"On arrival at the scene, the police were engaged in a gun duel by bandits who had already abducted innocent commuters and were about to take them into the forest.

"The operatives gallantly repelled them [bandits], deterring the hoodlums from further onslaught on the commuters," Shehu said.

The police spokesperson noted that during the encounter, one of the bandits was neutralised, while 11 kidnap victims were instantly rescued by the operatives.

"The command is intensifying various search and rescue strategies to safely rescue the remaining victims who were taken into the forest before the police arrived.

"All the rescued victims have been reunited with their families," Shehu said.

He, however, added that the Commissioner of Police, Hussaini Rabi'u, had reaffirmed the commitment and determination of the command to end the lingering security challenges in the state.