

# Bandits kill two, abduct traditional ruler, two soldiers, over 60 travellers in Sokoto, Kaduna, Borno

Muhammad Sabiu with agency report

**A**BOUT 60 travellers have been abducted by bandits on the Sokoto-Gusau highway.

An official of the Sokoto Mass Transit confirmed to *Channels Television* that one of their buses was attacked by bandits.

The official, who spoke under condition of anonymity, said the bandits blocked the highway on Sunday morning, wielding sophisticated weapons and eventually kidnapped over 60 travellers.

A bus driver and one other passenger escaped the attack but the rest of the passengers were taken away into the bush by the bandits.

Local residents also explained that the bandits blocked the Wurno-Goronyo road at about 5:00 p.m. the same day, killing two persons and abducting others.

The attack on the Wurno-Goronyo road was also confirmed to *Channels Television* by the chairman of Wurno Local Government Area, Abubakar Arzika.

He said two persons, including a lady, were killed by the bandits.

The chairman, however, could not confirm the abduction of other passengers on the road, saying police were still investigating the matter.

Police authorities in the state are yet to release a statement on the incident.

Meanwhile, the General Manager of Sokoto State Transport Authority (SSTA), Alhaji Yahuza Chika, has confirmed the involvement of the company's vehicle in the kidnapping incident which occurred on the Gusau-Sokoto road.

Chika made the confirmation during an interview with newsmen on Monday in Sokoto, just as he denied that three of their vehicles were

involved in the incident.

In another development, just two weeks after the release of the Emir of Kajuru in Kaduna State, Alhassan Adamu, the paramount ruler of Jaba chieftdom in the state, Gyet Maude, has been abducted by bandits.

It was gathered that the monarch was kidnapped on his farm on Monday.

One of his brothers, Anthony Maude, confirmed the abduction of the monarch to newsmen in an interview.

He said: "It is true our royal father, a very old man who is over 80 years old and one of the longest serving traditional rulers in the state, has been kidnapped this morning [Monday] in his farm at Gitata community in Nasarawa State."

The farm, it was gathered, is located at a boundary town between Kaduna and Nasarawa states.

However, as of the time of filing this report, it was not

clear whether the traditional ruler was alone on the farm or he was with his security detail when the incident occurred.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in Kaduna State, ASP Muhammad Jalige, said the command had reached out to the Nasarawa State command over the development.

Also, bandits have kidnapped two soldiers of the Nigerian Army on the Maiduguri-Damaturu highway in Goni Masari in Borno State.

A top military source confirmed the incident to *Nigerian Tribune*.

The soldiers were reportedly kidnapped while travelling to Kano in a commercial vehicle on Saturday.

Soldiers from the 134 special forces battalion have been mobilised to the area to rescue the victims.

Security forces have also arrested the driver and vehicle in which the soldiers were travelling.