

Bandits kill police, two guards, kidnap 15 students, four staffers in Zamfara College

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ZAMFARA State police command has confirmed the killing of a police Inspector and kidnap of 15 students and four staff members of the College of Agriculture and Animal Health, Bakura, by bandits on Sunday night.

The Commissioner of Police in the state, Ayuba Elkana, further confirmed that two civilian guards were killed, just as three other staff members of the college were rescued by the police.

Speaking to newsmen on Monday, the Deputy Registrar of the College, Aliyu Atiku, confirmed the inci-

dent by telephone.

According to him, the bandits stormed the main campus of the Institution at about 10:00 p.m. on Sunday and spent about one and a half hours operating in the school.

He said two members of staff and one student escaped from the bandits after they were earlier kidnapped, adding that they later returned to the school on Monday morning.

The deputy registrar said: "As I am talking to you now, we have formally discovered that the bandits kidnapped 15 students, all of them males; three women and one person who is also our staff, while they killed two of our security watch-

men and a police officer."

The state police boss, accompanied by tactical commanders of the command, visited the College in the early hours of Monday.

Elkana said the bandits, who were in large numbers, stormed the school at about midnight with the plan to abduct large number of students and staff, but were confronted by police operatives who were alerted to the development.

He said: "Unfortunately, a police inspector and two other civilian guards lost their lives, while 15 students and four members of staff were abducted by the bandits."

He added that police operatives, while on extensive bush combing in surround-

ing areas, rescued three staff, who he said would be debriefed and medically-examined before being reunited with their families.

The state police boss then held an emergency meeting where he assured the school management, parents and relations of those abducted that the command, in collaboration with other security agencies, especially the military, was already employing various search and rescue strategies in order to ensure the safe rescue of the abductees.

Meanwhile, the state governor, Bello Matawalle, while expressing sadness over the abduction, vowed to rescue the victims soon unhurt.