

Bandits kidnap 34 women, kill dozen others in Zamfara

NSCDC arrests three suspected bandits at Gusau motorpark

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BANDITS on Sunday kidnapped over 34 women, while dozen others were killed in multiple attacks in some villages in Gusau Local Government Area of Zamfara State.

A British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Hausa report said the bandits attacked Geba and Gidan Kaura villages, as well as some communities within Gusau Local Government Area.

A source told BBC that when the bandits invaded the communities, "they kidnapped some women and girls, while dozen others were killed."

The source said: "The bandits kidnapped 10 women at Kaura, and at Bayauri, they kidnapped nine women. They also entered a village called Gana and kidnapped seven before proceeding to Duma and kidnapped another seven women. These happened before Sunday morning."

According to the report, several properties were destroyed, while many villages have been deserted as villagers have relocated to Gusau, the state capital.

A local who was leaving for Gusau said they are now moving to Damba community inside the Gusau.

A local residing in Damba community said: "We have

women, children and those pregnant; there is no food. If you see where they sleep in this cold, it is as if there is no government."

However, the Commissioner for Information in the state, Ibrahim Dosara, said only Geba town was attacked.

Dosara said immediately the bandits attacked Geba, security agents moved in to save the situation.

"There are soldiers working in that zone; they went to Geba and found three people injured and the soldiers dispersed the bandits," he said.

The commissioner said it was not true that the villages that were attacked were not

visited by security agents on rescue mission.

The attacks came at a time when the authorities announced that security agencies have arrested some bandits who had been dislodged from their hideouts and who went to a medical facility for treatment.

Meanwhile, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corp (NSCDC) has confirmed the arrest of three suspected bandits who fled Magami area as a result of heavy security presence.

The NSCDC Public Relations Officer in the state, Mr Ikor Oche, confirmed the development at a news conference, saying the suspects were arrested at the

state mass transit motor park in Gusau on Monday.

According to the **News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)**, Oche said the suspects were arrested early in the morning while trying to board a vehicle leaving for Taraba State to join other members of the gang who had already relocated.

He said: "Tukur Halilu (27) from Gabaru village, Nahuche district, Bugudu Local Government Area of the state confessed he was working under a notorious bandits' leader, Magajin Kaura.

"Halilu confessed to be engaged in cattle rustling in all the villages around the local government area.

"He said that two other suspects who were also arrested, Hussaini Altine (40) and Abubakar Altine (60), were from Agamalafiya village in Rijiya ward in Gusau Local Government Area.

"Although Abubakar said he was innocent, Hussaini said he belonged to the camp of notorious bandits' leader, Gugurawa."

The NSCDC spokesperson, however, said Hussaini had taken part in three different bandits' attacks in Kurya, Bagawuri, Agamalafiya and Rijiya communities.

He added that the suspects were under intensive investigation that could spark further arrests of more suspects before prosecution.