

Gunmen kidnap another traditional ruler, release PDP chairman in Plateau

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THE paramount ruler of Tal chieftdom in Pankshin Local Government Area of Plateau State, the Golong Tal, His Highness Nanleng Yusuf Gotus, was on Monday morning kidnapped by gunmen in his palace.

In another development, the chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Bokkos Local Government, who was kidnapped in the early hours of Sunday, has been released.

Nigerian Tribune learnt that the gunmen stormed the palace of the traditional ruler at about 1:00a.m. on Monday and whisked him to unknown destination.

It was gathered that the gunmen, numbering about 10, during the operation, positioned themselves around the palace, while

four of them forced themselves into the residence of the monarch within the palace.

It was learnt that the gunmen warned other occupants within the palace against coming out.

A source close to the palace said hunters and vigilantes, in conjunction with security agencies, immediately began combing the hills around the council area to rescue the traditional ruler.

Nigerian Tribune further learnt that the kidnappers have contacted the palace and demanded N50 million ransom.

Spokesman for the state police command, DSP Alfred Alabo, who confirmed the incident, said operatives of the command had swung into action in a bid to rescue the traditional ruler.

Meanwhile, the state

chapter of the PDP, in a statement signed by its publicity secretary, Mr. John Akans, while confirming the release of the chairman of the party in Bokkos council area, commended the people of the community, vigilantes and the chairman of the local government for their prompt intervention.

The statement revealed the PDP chieftain was rescued on Sunday night.

In another development, militia suspected to be herders terrorising Plateau North senatorial district have killed a 23-year-old man, Alpha Pam Baren, in Bangai village in Bachi District, Riyom Local Government Area of the state.

It was learnt that the suspects laid an ambush and stabbed Baren at about 2:23p.m. on Sunday, and died of his injuries at a nearby hospital.

A source close to the family of the deceased revealed that prior to the attack, Baren, alongside his father and others, spotted cows grazing on their rice farm and they had driven them out.

According to the source, while others returned to Bangai through a different route, Baren followed a short distance, unaware that some herders had already planned an ambush for him.

Meanwhile, the Berom Youth Moulders (BYM) has condemned the killing and tasked security agencies to investigate the incident.

The BYM, in a statement signed by its national publicity secretary, Rwang Tengwong Rawang, lamented the persistent killings in the area, just as it wondered why none of the perpetrators had ever been brought to book.