

Bandits kill one, abduct over 100 villagers in Zamfara

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BANDITS believed to have been led by notorious commander, Damina, have killed a resident and abducted over 100 others in Mutunji community, Dansadau emirate in Maru Local Government Area of Zamfara State.

Damina, it was gathered, had terrified the community and imposed over N110 mil-

lion levy on farmers before they would be allowed to access their farms.

An indigene, who craved for anonymity, in an interview with the *BBC Hausa Service* on Saturday, said that the bandits struck at night.

According to him, "the latest attack was because the farmers could not pay N110 million levy imposed on the farmers by Damina.

"The bandits came on many bikes, encircled the community and went away with the people on Friday night. We need help, the situation is beyond our control.

"Two weeks ago, there was confusion amongst the bandits after they were hit on the ground through a plane. The bandits asked the people of Mutunji to give them N50 million, those in Fara to give N30 million, Mahuta

20 million, Unguwan Kawo 10 million. That's a total of N110 million demanded by Damina.

"As of Friday, the locals were not able to meet the bandits' demand.

"Damina came to Mutunji and killed one, inflicted injury on another and took over 100 locals to the forest.

"Damina operated between 9.40 pm till around 11pm. He took what he

wanted and left. He said they must give him the sum of N110 million.

"Previously, he was given N8 million, N10 million, even N20 million was given to him at different times. Unspecified amounts were given; we should just leave the matter to Almighty Allah."

When contacted, the Zamfara State Police Command spokesman, Yazid Abubakar, said he would call their op-

eratives in the affected area and revert.

"That Mutunji is in Dansadau. It is covered by the military. I advise you to reach the military spokesman," the police man added.

Meanwhile, phone calls placed through to the Deputy Director Public Relations, North West Operations of Hadarin Daji, Captain Ibrahim Yahaya, were not answered.