

## Bandits kill woman, abduct 15 students inside school premises in Sokoto community

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SUSPECTED armed bandits have kidnapped over 15 Tsangaya students at Gidan Bakuso area of Gada Local Government Area of Sokoto State.

The students, according to findings by Sunday Tribune, were abducted inside the school premises at about 1:00 a.m on Saturday.

Confirming the incident, the proprietor of the school, Mal-

lam Liman Abubakar, said: "So far, 15 students are unaccounted for, but we are still counting."

"They invaded the town around 1:00 a.m., shot one person and abducted a woman in the process.

"As they were leaving the town, they sighted our students rushing into their rooms and they kidnapped many of them.

"We have so far recorded 15

who are missing and we are still searching for more," he said.

Liman noted that this was not the first time the village was attacked by bandits, but added that they had never kidnapped any of their students until now.

Also speaking to Sunday Tribune, Mansur Ahmadu, a resident of the community, said the suspected bandits invaded the community in the middle

of the night.

"It was a serious situation when the incident happened. They killed a woman before they abducted those students," he said.

Also confirming the incident, a lawmaker representing Gada-East constituency at the Sokoto State House of Assembly, Kabiru Dauda, said he received a call from the village around 2 a.m that they were invaded by bandits.

"I reached out to the local government authorities and security agencies and I am sure they are doing something about it," he said.

When contacted, the spokesman of the Sokoto State Police Command, ASP Ahmad Rufa'i, said the command had deployed a team to ascertain the true picture of things.

"Most of your colleagues have been calling me on this but honestly, I just spoke with

the divisional police officer of the affected community.

"We have mobilised our men to ascertain what actually happened. I can assure you that we are on top of the situation. I will brief you on it," he added.

Efforts to speak with the Special Adviser on Security Matters to the Governor, Colonel Ahmed Usman (retd), were not successful as his line was not reachable at the time of filing this report.