

# Katsina gunmen abduct Customs officers, kill two teenagers

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File: Gunmen

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Gunmen suspected to be bandits on Wednesday abducted four Customs officers along with a number of motorists at a checkpoint along Jibia-Batsari road in the Jibia Local Government area of Katsina State.

Also, two teenagers were killed, with others injured after another armed gang suspected to be bandits attacked a viewing centre at Magama in the LGA on Tuesday night.

Meanwhile, gunmen reportedly abducted a 14-year-old boy and his mother at the Juji area of SabonTasha, Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State, in the early hours of Tuesday.

Sources said the Customs officers were kidnapped about 10am.

The motorcycle-riding gangsters were said to have disarmed the Customs officers before taking them along with the motorists to the forest.

Spokesman for the Nigeria Customs Service in Katsina State, Peter Duniya, said he was on leave and could not comment on the incident.

None of the officers contacted at the command was ready to comment on the issue, although they said they were aware of the incident.

The incident was a hot topic for discussion at the command.

A survivor of the Magama viewing centre attack, Idris Usman, said they were watching a football match when the gunmen came in and opened fire on them.

The police in the state had yet to comment on the abduction of the Customs officer and the killing of two teenagers at the Magama viewing centre as of the time one of our correspondents filed in his report.

It was learnt that the 14-year-old and his mother were abducted after the gunmen invaded their home, shooting indiscriminately.

It was learnt that the boy protested against his mother's abduction, telling the hoodlums to either release her mother or take him along with her.

A resident of the area, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the kidnappers scaled the fence of their abductees' home before taking the duo away.

The source said when the kidnappers got into the compound after scaling the fence, “they started knocking on the door, ordering the victims to open the door. But when nobody responded, they smashed one of the windows in an attempt to enter the room.”

He added, “They seized the woman and as they were going with her, her eldest son who is 14 years old, protested and insisted that he must be taken along with his mother.

“As I am speaking to you now, the kidnappers have not said anything and we are very worried since the incident took place over 24 hours ago.”

He further said that the incident had been reported to the Sabon Tasha Police Station but nothing had been done.

Spokesman for the police in the state, DSP Yakubu Sabo, promised to contact the Divisional Police Officer in charge of Sabon Tasha Division and get back to our correspondent. However, as of the time of filing this report he had yet to respond.

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