

**METRO PLUS**

# Highway bandits kidnap 16, kill driver in Kaduna

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Despite the lockdown by the Kaduna State Government to curtail the spread of COVID-19, some bandits, suspected to be kidnappers, struck along the Kaduna-Birnin-Gwari highway, kidnapping no fewer than 16 persons.

The bandits, our correspondent gathered, struck along the Kaduna-Birnin-Gwari road and kidnapped family members being conveyed to Birnin Gwari for the burial of their breadwinner.

The incident, a source said, took place on Wednesday.

The Birnin Gwari road connects the state with Niger and Zamfara states.

The driver of the vehicle was shot dead on the spot.

The remains of the driver were later evacuated by the military and the police on joint operations in the area, our correspondent gathered.

According to the source, no fewer than five occupants of the vehicle were taken away by the bandits into the bush.

The occupants of the vehicle included a woman, three of her children and one other person.

The source claimed the bandits stormed a nearby village where they took away about four villagers and stole cows as well as other animals.

He said, “Between Tuesday night and Wednesday, no fewer than 16 persons were abducted along the road, including those going for burial at Birnin Gwari.

“It has become a daily affair, though it has reduced because the military had stepped up operations in the area.

“From Uduwa to this place, the presence of the military is scaring them. The bandits usually carry out their operations early in the morning and by 9.00am, they are done. And also from 6.00pm when they know that the military men have left, they strike and operate into the night and the early hours of the day.”

Meanwhile, the Kaduna State Police Command’s Public Relations Officer, ASP Mohammed Jalige, told journalists that he had yet to receive briefing from the Divisional Police Officer of the area where the incident took place.