

One killed, many abducted as bandits occupy Niger community

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Niger State Governor, Abubakar Bello

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Bandits on Thursday raided Kagara community in the Rafi Local Government Area of Niger State, killing one person while many were abducted.

It was learnt that the wife of the Education Secretary of the Chanchaga Local Government Area, Lawal Balarabe, was kidnapped along with her one-week-old baby.

Our correspondent also gathered that three grandchildren of a former Commissioner for Finance in the state, late Tanko Inga, were said to be among those abducted.

Further checks revealed that several people were injured in the raid which lasted for several hours.

One of those injured was described as a retired staff nurse who was shot in the leg.

Our correspondent gathered that the bandits stormed the local government headquarters on over 27 motorcycles. They shot sporadically into the air to instil fears into residents who ran into the bush.

According to the eyewitness, “They went from house to house knocking on the doors for the occupants to open the doors for them. The doors to houses not opened were forced opened and the occupants beaten mercilessly before they were dispossessed of their valuables. “

According to reports, the operation started late on Wednesday at Uregi town a few kilometres from Kagara where several people were kidnapped and hundreds of cattle rustled.

A community leader in the area (name withheld), who confirmed the incident, said, “Three of my cousins are among those kidnapped. We are tired of this incessant invasion; we cannot do anything with peace of mind. We are always afraid that we will be attacked.”

The Police Public Relations Officer, Wasiu Abiodun, when contacted confirmed the incident, saying operatives had been deployed by the command to fish out the bandits and bring them to book.

Abiodun said, “We are on top of the situation, we cannot allow hoodlums to take over the state. Bandits will have no rest in Niger State. We will make the state uncomfortable for them.”