

Gunmen kill two, abduct policeman, others in Kaduna

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Godwin Isenyo, Kaduna

Gunmen, in the early hours of Friday, invaded Mararaban Rido and Juji in the Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

At Juji, after a failed attempt to kidnap residents, the gunmen killed two persons.

During an attack on Maraban Rido, a neighbouring community, the bandits kidnapped four persons, including a sick police officer.

Others abducted during the operation that took place in the early hours of Friday were a 14-year-old girl, an operative of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps and a

security guard.

According to a source, the gunmen first attacked the residence of the Chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria in Kaduna North LGA Rev Elisha Abu, before going to his neighbour's house.

The cleric also confirmed the attack, saying the gunmen first attacked his residence at about 11.57pm on Thursday where they attempted break into his house to no avail.

He said, "The gunmen first came into my residence at about 11.57pm and they spoke in Fulani and Hausa languages saying I should open the door for them. Immediately, we (my family and I) engaged in prayers for divine intervention from God Almighty.

"As we were praying and refused to open the entrance to the house, they tried using a hammer to break the entrance to the house but could not succeed. While they were making efforts to get into the house, we kept praying to God for help.

"I called on the police to inform them of what we were going through and for their immediate assistance but, before the police arrived in my house, the gunmen had left unable to gain entry into the house."

The cleric stated that the gunmen left his residence for other neighbouring houses where they kidnapped "a sick policeman that had just come from another state, a civil defence officer, a 14-year-old girl and a security man."

Similarly, at Juji, a neighbouring community to Maraban Rido, gunmen suspected to be kidnappers also invaded the area, shooting indiscriminately for hours leading to the death of two persons.

It was learnt that the two victims were from a neighbouring community and had come to assist in preventing the attackers into Juji community.

A source said the gunmen's attack on the community started some minutes after 11pm lasted for hours.

“The gunmen came into the community around 11pm and operated for several hours but were repelled by the youth. They could not abduct anybody. Two persons from another neighbouring community (Baban Saura) were killed.”

Juji had witnessed a series of kidnappings in recent times. Many residents had relocated from their homes to other parts of the state.

The Kaduna State Police Command has yet to confirm the latest incident.

As of the time of filing this report, the Public Relations Officer of the Command, ASP Mohammed Jalige, could not be reached and there was no reply to a text message sent to his telephone.

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Contact: theeditor@punchng.com