

Bandits kill one, kidnap village head, 55 others in Katsina, Zamfara

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Maiharaji Altine and Olaide Oyelude

A man identified as Ashiru Umar has lost his life after he was shot by suspected bandits who attacked Garin Bilbis, Faskari Local Government Area of Katsina State in the early hours of Sunday.

The suspected bandits also kidnapped a man and a woman during the attack.

Residents said the hoodlums stormed the community at about 1am on Sunday, during which they looted houses and carted away foodstuffs and some animals.

It was learnt that Umar, who was shot on the leg, died while being taken to hospital.

The spokesman for the Katsina State Police Command, Gambo Isah, confirmed the incident, saying prompt arrival of policemen stopped the bandit from causing more harm.

Meanwhile, bandits have also kidnapped 53 people, including a village head, in Lingyado village, Maru Local Government Area of Zamfara State.

An eyewitness, Abdullahi Mohammed, who narrowly escaped being kidnapped, told our correspondent that the village head, Alhaji Dalhatu Mohammed, and 53 others were kidnapped by gunmen who came to the village around 8am on Sunday.

According to him, the bandits rode on motorcycles and immediately they arrived in the village, they started to shoot before they began to go from house to house, kidnapping people.

He said, “They didn’t kill anybody and didn’t rustle animals or steal our food but they have abducted all the important personalities in the village, including our village head and the Chief Imam.”

Confirming the incident, the spokesperson for the police command, SP Mohammed Shehu, said, “We received a report on the incident but I don’t know the exact number of people kidnapped by bandits in that village.”

Shehu said policemen had been deployed to go after the kidnapper to rescue the victims.

Meanwhile, the Zamfara State government has directed traditional rulers in the state to ask their subjects to embark on special prayers against banditry.

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