

# Kidnappers, gunmen hold sway, abduct 75, kill 18

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**KIDNAPPERS** and gunmen have sustained attacks in different parts of the country abducting 75 persons and killing 18 others.

In Niger State, no fewer than 50 persons were abducted in the early hours of Thursday when bandits attacked Bassa community in the Shiroro Local Government Area of the state.

**① Nine people were killed very early on Thursday during an attack by bandits on Sarki Sheme village in the Faskari Local Government Area of Katsina State.**

In Taraba State, at least, 25 youths, who were coming from a wedding, were abducted along Wukari-Takum road.

Bandits also struck in three local government areas of Kaduna State, where they killed four persons, including two brothers.

In Delta State, gunmen killed five persons in the Warri South Local Government Area.

Recall that the President, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, (retd.), at a meeting with the newly appointed service chiefs, said the country was in an emergency.

He also admitted his regime was finding it difficult to keep the promise it made in 2015 that it would secure the country.

**Bandits in motorcycles overrun Niger communities, kidnap 50**

Few hours after the President spoke, bandits abducted no fewer than 50 people on Thursday during an attack on Bassa community in the Shiroro Local Government Area of Niger State.

It was learnt that the incident happened when bandits, in their large

numbers, stormed the community in several motorcycles.

The people were said to be getting set for the day's work when the gunmen struck, forcing some of the residents to run into the bush for safety.

The Co-convenor Concerned Shiroro Youths, Abubakar Kokki, confirmed the attack describing the bandits as terrorists and lamented that the attack was worrisome.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Abiodun Wasiu, said he would get back to **The PUNCH** when he must have been briefed about details of the incident.

**Gunmen kill four in fresh Kaduna attacks**

In Kaduna State, bandits invaded communities in three local government areas, killing four persons, including two brothers.

The local government areas are Igabi, Chikun and Kujuru.

The State Commissioner for Internal Security and Home Affairs, Mr. Samuel Aruwan, confirmed the attacks on Thursday.

Aruwan said the bandits in large numbers first invaded Nasarawa

Kalgo, a community on the outskirts of Jaji under Rigachikun district in Igabi LG and killed a resident, one Harrison Ibrahim.

**② He added that some bandits attacked Kujama in the Chikun LGA but were repelled by local vigilantes, saying that while they (bandits) retreated, the same bandits attacked Janwuriya village in the Kujuru LG, where they killed two brothers.**

He gave the identities of the brothers killed as Nuhu Ishaya and Yakubu Ishaya.

**③ The commissioner disclosed that the bandits also invaded Maraban Kajuru in the same Kajuru LG and killed another resident, Samiru Na Ya'u.**

**Gunmen seize 25 marriage guests in Taraba**

However, in Taraba State, at least, 25 youths were kidnapped along Wukari-Takum road.

The incident, according to sources, happened on Wednesday night when the youth were on their way back to Takum from Wukari, where they attended a wedding.

A source in Wukari told one of our correspondents on the telephone

that the youth ran into a roadblock mounted by gunmen suspected to be kidnappers between Amadu and Chanchanji.

The gunmen were said to have taken them into the bush.

The Taraba State Police Command's spokesman, David Misal, confirmed the incident and said the command had yet to establish exactly what happened.

**Nine killed in Katsina**

The situation was worse in Katsina State as nine persons reportedly died on Wednesday night when suspected bandits attacked Sarki Sheme village in the Faskari Local Government Area of the state.

Residents revealed that the suspected bandits had stormed Sarki Sheme village where they reportedly killed their victims and rustled some domestic animals.

A resident, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the attackers invaded the community about 11pm on Wednesday, adding that out of the nine persons killed, eight were adults while one was a young boy.

The Spokesman for the Katsina Police Command, Gambo Isah, said

the command should be given time to confirm the incident.

**④ Also, there was tension at Ubeji and Egbokodo communities in the Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State on Thursday over the killing of five persons by rival cult groups.**

Although the incident occurred between Monday and Wednesday, when gunmen suspected to be members of rival cult groups shot five persons dead, fear still gripped residents on Thursday.

**⑤ The PUNCH gathered that on Monday somebody was killed in Merogun. On Wednesday evening, one person was shot at Ekkurede, Itsekiri community. At 9 pm on Wednesday, gunmen also shot three persons dead at the boundary between Ubeji and Egbokodo communities.**

Consequently, commercial activities were paralysed in the communities as residents were shocked over the killings.

In his reaction, the immediate past chairman of the Warri South Local Government Area, Dr Michael Tidi, condemned the "senseless cult killings going on in the council area."

## President, N'Assembly on collision course over service chiefs' confirmation

Sunday Aborisade,  
Adelani Adepegba,  
Leke Baiyewu, Friday Olorok  
and Kayode Idowu

**T**HERE were indications on Thursday that the President, Major General Muhammadu Buhari (retd.), and the National Assembly were on a collision course over the confirmation of the appointment of the new service chiefs.

The Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Media and Public Affairs, Benjamin Kalu, in an interview with **The PUNCH** in Abuja, said the President must send names of the new service chiefs to the National Assembly for confirmation.

were not screened by the National Assembly in 2015, adding that the new appointees would not be sent to the parliament for confirmation.

The House spokesman, Kalu, in the interview with **The PUNCH**, said it was necessary for the National Assembly to confirm the appointment of the service chiefs.

He said, "It is trite law that when a judgment is neither appealed nor overturned, it remains our law on the issue addressed by the decision of court. This is in line with the doctrine of 'stare decisis' - a legal principle hinged on precedents.

"The Festus Keyamo, SAN's 2013 case referred to in your question still stands until reversed by an appellate court."

cannot give the position of the Senate until we meet and pass a resolution on the matter.

"However, in view of the combined effects of Section 218 (4) of the 1999 Constitution and Section 18 of the Armed Forces Act, the appointment of service chiefs will require the confirmation of the Senate.

"I believe that the President will be well advised by relevant legal advisory unit of the government to forward the names of the service chiefs to the Senate for necessary legislative action."

Efforts to get the reactions of the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Mallam Abubakar Malami, (SAN) and the Minister of Information and Culture,

hence, calls for gratitude," he noted.

The new COAS solicited the support of soldiers and officers to reposition the Nigerian Army.

He thanked the President, Maj. Gen. Muhamamadu Buhari (retd.), for finding him worthy, adding that he counted himself lucky to have been chosen for the army top job.

**Shettima says choice of new service chief was well informed**

Also on Thursday, a former Governor of Borno State, Senator Kashim Shettima, said Buhari's choice of new service chiefs was well informed.

Shettima, who called for the removal of the former service chiefs, said his agitation was never personal.