

**Sunday**special

# Bauchi policemen kill suspected kidnappers, rescue victims

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**T**HE Bauchi State Police Command has said 10 suspected kidnappers were killed and 39 persons recently abducted in Yankari Forest in Alkali Local Government Area of the state have been rescued.

The suspects were killed during a fierce gun battle with security operatives which comprised two Police Tactical Units: The anti-kidnapping and Rapid Response Squad, along with the Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps who rescued the abducted persons.

The abducted persons consisting of 28 males, eight females, and three infants were rescued during 'Operation Sharan Daji,' by an operational unit set up by the Bauchi State Commissioner of Police, Auwal Muhammad, to sanitise kidnappers' enclaves/dens.

In a statement made available to Sunday PUNCH, the state Police Public Relations Officer, Ahmed Wakil,

disclosed that the kidnappers had demanded a total of N1.65 billion ransom from the 39 rescued victims.

"On the 15th September 2023 at about 7.00 pm, the Command's 'Operation Sharan Daji' team in conjunction with relevant stakeholders (hunters) led by CSP Makama Magaji, acting on credible intelligence swiftly ransacked a suspected kidnapper's enclave and engaged the culprits in a heavy gun battle.

"Consequently, they emerged victorious as the result of their superior firepower against the kidnappers. The operatives successfully defaced the suspected kidnappers to whisk them away in disarray with serious bullet wounds into the nearest bushes and successfully rescued kidnapped victims therein.

"However, the operatives were able to neutralise about 10 suspected kidnappers/bandits at a red mountain (Jan-Dutse) situated in Yankari forest and rescued 39 kidnapped victims consisting of 28 males, eight females,



The rescued victims

and three infants both old and young of age unhurt.

"They were reunited with their respective families after a medical check-up at the General Hospital Alkali, Wakil said.

According to him, preliminary investigation revealed that the kidnappers invaded Gaji village to abduct specifically targeted people, which they suspected to be among the businessmen coming back from Mararrabar

Liman Katagum market.

"The kidnappers shot two drivers of tricycle and motor-vehicle at the spot and they sustained serious injuries before they proceeded to their camp.

"Subsequently, the kidnappers demanded the sum of N50 million from each of the victims as ransom before the successful rescue operations by the 'Operation Sharan Daji' which put all their plans in futility," Wakil added.