

# How bandits killed two Nasarawa friends – Police

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| Collins Agwam

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Residents of the Wulko community in the Nasarawa Eggon Local Government Area of Nasarawa State have lamented the consistent attacks by bandits who most times steal or kidnap indigenes for ransom.

Arewa Punch reports that numerous cases of kidnapping and armed robbery had occurred in the LGA in recent times, but despite the state government's efforts to tackle the menace, the criminal elements still outsmart security operatives to carry out their nefarious activities unhindered.

A resident of the community who identified himself as Mr Yakubu, decried the level of insecurity in the area and called on the security agencies in the state to urgently intervene by ensuring that adequate security personnel are deployed to attack-prone communities in the LGA.

He said, "The issue of insecurity in Nasarawa Eggon LGA is not a new thing. Almost everyone in Nasarawa State is aware that we have been facing this challenge for a very long time. People get kidnapped and robbed in their houses for doing nothing wrong to anyone.

"Most of these residents end up selling their properties to enable them pay ransom to the criminals to avoid being killed. I am still wondering how long it will take the government to muster adequate security operatives to the LGA to enable us to have peace of mind and sleep at night with our two eyes closed."

Another resident of the community who pleaded anonymity narrated how two of the indigenes were recently shot dead by the bandits while they were fleeing the community following a manhunt launched on them by the security agencies.

The source mentioned the names of those killed to include a technician, Ango Habakkuk, a.k.a (Ango Gentle), and Ewuga Williams, a security man in the area.

"The two people killed by the fleeing bandits were best of friends, and they both resided in the Wulko community."

The suspected kidnappers were fleeing from their hideout in a neighbouring village following police invasion when they ran into the two young men and gunned them down.

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“We heard that a local farmer discovered the hideout of the kidnappers where they abduct and keep their victims for ransom, so he alerted the Police, who in collaboration with local Vigilante invaded the hideout in a nearby village called Ogba.

“But on sighting the Police, the gunmen took to their heels, leaving behind their victim, who is a lecturer at the Nasarawa State University, Keffi, Mr. Isaac Igbawua,” the source said.

Reacting to the development, the Nasarawa State Police command said its officers have been able to rescue the Lecturer, Isaac Igbawua, who is attached to the Department of Micro Biology at the state’s university.

The details of Igbawua’s release were contained in a press statement issued to journalists by the Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Ramhan Nansel, and obtained by our correspondent in Lafia.

According to the statement, the Lecturer was kidnapped by the gunmen who invaded his residence in the Kokona LGA and took him to an unknown destination.

Nansel narrated, “On 27/12/2023, information was received that unidentified armed men invaded the residence of one Isaac Igbawua, a lecturer attached to the Department of Micro Biology, Nasarawa State University, Keffi. The lecturer who resides at Old Barracks, Kokona LGA, was whisked to an unknown destination.

“Reacting to the unpleasant development, the Commissioner of Police, CP Umar Shehu Nadada psc, mni ordered an intensive manhunt for the abductors.

“The search paid off on 28/12/2023 when information was received that some strange people wearing face mask were sighted in the forest at Ogba village, Nasarawa Eggon and the police in collaboration with vigilante group mobilised to the scene.

“On sighting the operatives, the hoodlums opened fire but were gallantly repelled; they took to flight, and the victim was rescued unhurt and reunited with his family after undergoing medical examination at the Police Clinic, Lafia,” the Police statement noted.

Our correspondent further gathered that Ewuga Williams has since been buried in accordance with Christian rites, while the body of Ango Habbakuk is still in the morgue at OLA Hospital, Akwanga LGA of the state.