

# Gunmen attack customs base, kill officer in Kebbi

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Gunmen suspected to be hoodlums have reportedly attacked a Nigeria Customs Service patrol base in Koko, Kebbi State killing one officer and abducting one other in the process.

A press statement made available to newsmen on Sunday evening by the Public Relations Officer, Kebbi Area Command, Mohammed Tajuddeen Salisu, said the incident occurred on Thursday.

“With deep regret, we announce a distressing incident which occurred at our Koko Besse patrol base on Thursday, July 25, 2024, at approximately 2100 hours.

“A group of hoodlums attacked the patrol base, destroying properties and targeting our officers in a contest to the recent boost to anti-smuggling activities in the area.

“The armed men after causing mayhem to the base trailed and attacked two of our officers, one was shot and the other abducted. Unfortunately, Assistant Superintendent Customs I, Dabo Umar, lost his life while Superintendent of Customs, Babagana Abba Kabiru, was abducted and a hefty ransom was demanded for his release.”

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The statement said the deceased officer's body was retrieved and conveyed to Kaduna for burial according to Islamic rites.

“While a manhunt was launched for the killers and abductors of the officers, the Customs Area Controller, Iheanacho Ernest Ojike, has commiserated with the family of the deceased and prayed for the release of the abducted officer.”

The statement however urged the public to provide any information that might lead to the safe return of the abducted officer, while assuring them that other relevant security services were involved in the matter.

“We will continue to provide updates as the situation develops. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the affected officers and the deceased’s.”