

Meanwhile, in a separate incident in Zamfara State, bandits invaded Kaura-Namoda town—the headquarters of Kaura-Namoda Local Government Area—killing four women and abducting 20 other residents during an early morning raid.

The attack, which occurred around 2:00 a.m. on Saturday, left the community in shock.

An eyewitness and survivor, Abdullahi Mohammed, told The PUNCH that the attackers arrived on motorcycles while most residents were asleep.

Armed with heavy weapons, the bandits moved from house to house, abducting women and children and killing four women who refused to follow them into the forest.

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“We tried to defend ourselves, but they were heavily armed.

Everyone ran for safety. They operated for more than three hours without any interference from security forces,” Mohammed said.

He added that the bandits had initially selected 24 victims for abduction but killed four women who resisted.

“They started shooting sporadically to scare people. We woke up and attempted to confront them, but had to flee. They later went house to house, taking mostly women and children.”

Mohammed confirmed that the ordeal aligned with claims made by federal lawmaker Aminu Sani Jaji, who recently raised alarm about rampant insecurity in the constituency.

During a press conference in Abuja, Jaji revealed that more than 200 people had been kidnapped in the area, with over 3,000 others abducted across his Kaura-Namoda/Birnin-Magaji federal constituency.

He also disclosed that 10 people were killed last week after their community failed to raise the N30 million ransom demanded by their abductors.

According to Mohammed, bandits now control significant portions of the constituency, operating with little resistance and acting as de facto authorities in some areas.

“We’ve been reporting to relevant authorities, but nothing has changed. The situation is frightening. If they can repeatedly enter the headquarters of a local government, what about remote villages with no security presence?”

Just last week, hundreds of residents staged a peaceful protest in Kaura-Namoda town to express frustration over the government’s failure to protect them.

Attempts by The PUNCH to contact the Zamfara State Police spokesperson, DSP Yazid Abubakar, were unsuccessful as he did not respond to calls or text messages.

Similarly, the Local Government Area Chairman, Mannir Haidara, did not return calls or messages from our reporter.

The twin attacks have once again brought to the fore Nigeria’s worsening insecurity crisis, particularly in the northwest, where banditry and kidnapping have become a daily threat to life and livelihood.