

# Zamfara village grieves as bandits kill 35 over ransom

Maiharaji Altine

**T**HIRTY-FIVE kidnapped victims from Banga village in Kaura-Namoda Local Government Area of Zamfara State have reportedly been killed by bandits over their failure to pay a N35m ransom.

A resident of the village, Sani Suleiman, told The PUNCH by phone on Sunday that the bandits abducted 53 people from the community and demanded N1m per captive.

of 21 days of mourning

According to him, "The 53 kidnapped victims had been in captivity for several months, with only 18 of them able to pay the ransom and were released."

He continued, "Those who were released after paying the ransom told us that the bandits slaughtered the remaining 35 captives who could not pay the ransom one after the other in their presence."

Suleiman further said that Banga village was currently under the control of the

anniversary on Saturday,

bandits and appealed to the state government to intervene.

He said, "We are calling on the state government to come to our aid and deploy security personnel to the area before the inhabitants flee to other places for safety."

When contacted, the Special Adviser to Governor Dauda Lawal on Security Matters, Ahmed Danmanga, confirmed knowledge of the incident but said he could not verify the number of those killed.

*All stories continue on*