Bandits kill morning worshippers in Sokoto mosque attack

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By Animashaun Salman

Bandits have attacked the mosque in Marnona village in the Wurno Local Government Area of Sokoto State, killing one worshipper and abducting several others during morning prayers.

Eyewitnesses said the assailants, wielding sophisticated weapons, stormed the mosque in the early hours of Sunday and opened fire indiscriminately, throwing the congregation into chaos. They fled before security operatives arrived.

Confirming the incident, the Sokoto State Chairman of the All Progressives Congress, Isah Sadeeq Achida, described it as "barbaric" and "an act of cowardice."

"Targeting innocent worshippers in a sacred place is a direct attack on our humanity and our faith," Achida said.

"The perpetrators must be brought to justice, and our people must remain united to defeat this menace."

He assured residents that the state government, working with security agencies, was intensifying efforts to combat banditry across Sokoto.

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Achida also expressed condolences to the bereaved families and wished the injured a speedy recovery.

Security sources believe the attackers may have come from camps hidden in forests along the Sokoto–Zamfara border, areas notorious for sheltering armed groups.

The attack is the latest in a wave of violence sweeping Sokoto East, where communities have faced repeated raids, kidnappings, and killings in recent months. Locals have been calling for stronger military presence and coordinated operations to restore peace.

The spokesman for the Sokoto Police Command, DSP Ahmed Rufai, said the command had launched an investigation and would provide further details in due course.

Meanwhile, tension remains high in Marnona and neighbouring villages as security patrols intensify and vigilantess join forces with law enforcement to guard against fresh attacks.