

Gunmen kill repentant bandit in Benue

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| By John Charles

There was pandemonium in Zaki Biam town, Ukum Local Government Area of Benue State, on Monday morning, when some gunmen suspected to be bandits invaded a market and shot a suspected leader of a rival group to death.

According to an eyewitness who simply identified himself as Terna, the incident happened at about 9:am.

Terna said, “A suspected gang leader, Ikyoga Joka Biam, was on Monday morning shot dead near the abattoir close to NKST Centre in Zaki-Biam town, Ukum Local Government Area of Benue State.

“The incident happened around 9am, when some young men suspected to be bandits stormed the busy town and shot Ikyoga, which made residents around the area scamper for safety.”

Another witness, who gave his name as Jando, said that the broad daylight killing of Ikyoga might be linked to longstanding rivalries and violent clashes associated with criminal activities in the area.

He described the deceased as a repentant gangster, while others alleged he had returned to his former lifestyle, making him a target for a rival group.

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When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Udeme Edet, confirmed the killing on Monday.

She, however, said that the command was yet to establish whether Biam was killed by his own associates or by rivals.

“The police are on the trail of those behind the killing,” Edet said.

However, the chairman of the local government, Jonathan Mordi, declined to comment on the incident.

Ukum is one of the three LGAs in the Sankera area that has become the epicentre of killings and kidnappings.