



Niger: Bandits kill 5, abduct 7 students, scores in fresh attack

• Rustle 100 cattle

From **John Adams,**
Minna

BARELY 24 hours after the abducted students of Government Science College Kagara in Rafi Local Government Area of Niger State were set free, no fewer than seven boys suspected to be students of Government Technical College, Pandogeri in the same LGA have been abducted by suspected bandits.

The boys were abducted at about 2:00pm on Saturday while playing football in the school premises. Though the state government ordered the closure of all boarding schools across the four local government areas under attacks from bandits, including Rafi Local Government Area, day schools were, however, not affected by the order.

It was learnt that few hours after the seven students were abducted and taken into the bush, the bandits attacks some villages within the same local government killing an unspecified number of persons and kidnapping others in a night operation. Pando-

geri town where the students were abducted is about 20 kilometres from Kagara where 28 students from the state science college who regained freedom on Saturday were kidnapped. In Maikunjeri village under Cikin Ward said to be heavy populated by Fulanis, four people were killed, with some women abducted, and over 100 cattle rustled by the bandits. It was learnt that the bandits who kidnapped the seven students are a different group from those that invaded Maikunjeri. While that operation was on, another set of bandits, also in their numbers took over Kundu village, in Gunna Ward in the same Rafi Local Government Area and unleashed terror on the people. Also at Rubo village in Madaka Ward of the same Rafi LGA, bandits kidnapped the Chief Iman and of the area a number of persons. In another development, armed bandits for first time, struck in Katcha community in Katcha Local Government Area of the state and abducted three persons - a girl and two men in the early hours of Sunday.

Fear and apprehension

have gripped the communities over the latest attacks.

There was, however, no official confirmation from the state government on the latest abductions and killings.

Three weeks ago, 42 passengers on board the state transport service were abducted in the same Kundu, but later released after eight days in captivity.

Although nobody was killed

in the Kundu invasion, shops and food items were freely looted by the bandits before moving to a settlement called Gidan Adamu in Yekila District. One person was killed and 13 people, mostly women were abducted.

A source close to the village said an alarm had been raised on the possible invasion by bandits, but that no action was taken.

Why my administration focused on education

FORMER President Goodluck Jonathan has described education as the key to nation building and manpower development.

He also said that to liberate people from mental slavery, education must be the top priority of every government.

The former president stated this on Saturday in Kaiama during a reception in honour of Bayelsa State Governor, Senator Douye Diri, by the people of Kolokuma/Opokuma Local Government Area.

A statement by Governor Diri's Chief Press Secretary, Mr. Daniel Alabrah, quoted Dr. Jonathan as making

reference to Singapore whose founding Prime Minister, Lee Kuan Yew, succeeded in transforming his nation from third world to first world through education.

The Jonathan administration between 2011 and 2015 has the record of establishing 13 federal universities across Nigeria and no fewer than 140 schools for the Almajirai in the northern states.

"Education is key to development. When you liberate the minds of the people, they will be so enlightened and be able to do the right thing. So, Governor Diri, I assure you that we will work with you to see how to improve

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