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MINNA

Gunmen invade Niger communities, kill scores of villagers, abduct women, children

...demand N3m to release two women, as Army, Police rescue victims

Over 200 gunmen at the weekend reportedly invaded some communities in Magama Local Government Area of Niger State, killing unconfirmed number of villagers, injuring many and abducting dozens of women and children.

The gunmen who rode on over a hundred motorcycles carrying at least two persons were said to have rustled undisclosed number of cattle and carted away food stuffs.

Confirming the attack, Chairman of Magama Local Government, Safiyau Garba Ibeto, said the hoodlums invaded the local government on Saturday through Mabirni, Zoma, Bado, Yangalu, Buga Zabbi close to Ibeto town.

According to Ibeto, "the fierce

looking gunmen killed some people and we are yet to ascertain the number of deaths. They abducted dozens of persons who are mostly women and children, leaving others injured."

It was learnt that, most of the affected areas are now deserted, while some women and children are hiding in the bushes and many others taking refuge in Kontagora.

An elderly woman identified as Malama Khadijat Abdullahi explained that two of her daughters are among those abducted by the

gunmen.

Accordingly, she said "my two daughters are also mothers. The first one has five children while the second one has three.

"The gunmen have contacted us, they have started negotiations with us and the amount is huge.

"For my two daughters alone we are going to pay the sum of three million naira (N3 million). We pleaded with them that we don't have such, but they said they will call later on today (Sunday) for the continuation of the negotiation."

Confirming the incident, the Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Wasiu Abiodun said scores of the gunmen were neutralised, large herds of cattle recovered and twenty (20) abducted victims

regained freedom.

According to him "the Niger State Police Command wishes to inform members of the public that

at about 4:30pm on Saturday 12 February, armed bandits/terrorists attacked some villages around Nasko, Magama LGA and rustled a large number of cattle.



Gunmen

Magodo land dispute: Hope of early resolution dashed

...as govt postpone meeting indefinitely

Patrick Okohue

time we were here they said the governor had directed them to look

Fire destroys shops, goods at Atakumosa Market, Osun