

Sokoto: 3 policemen killed as troops rescue 21 intending pilgrims from kidnappers

Umar Abdullahi
SOKOTO

Bandits on Monday attacked and kidnapped at least 21 Sokoto State prospective pilgrims and their relatives who were on transits to Sultan Abubakar III International Airport for onward airlift to Saudi Arabia.

Local sources said the abducted pilgrims and their relatives were on their way to Sokoto Airport from Isa Local Government Area when over 200 bandits at Gundumi forest attacked and held them hostage.

The chairman of the local government council, Alhaji Abubakar Yusuf Dan Ali

confirmed the number of the intending pilgrims involved in the attack.

A source from Isa hospital also revealed that at least 3 Mobile policemen accompanying the pilgrims were killed during the attack.

Reacting to the issue, the Sokoto State Government said the intending pilgrims from Isa Local Government Area Of Sokoto State, were rescued unscathed.

According to the state Commissioner for Information, Isah Bajini Galadanchi, all of the intending pilgrims, their relatives who were accompanying them to Sokoto Hajj camp and the security men escorting them, were momentarily held up by suspected bandits operating on the cor-



Bandits

ridor linking the eastern part of the state, but that they later arrived safely in Sokoto, the capital city.

A statement by the Special Adviser, Media and Publicity

to the Governor said already the contingent have been received by government officials and are being processed for their onward journey to the Holy Land.