

Terrorists kill one, kidnap 20, demand N12m harvest fees from farmers

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KADUNA

Terrorists operating around the Birnin Gwari area of Kaduna State have killed a farmer in Shiwaka community and abducted 20 others from their farms.

The attacks took place in Jangali and Kwaga in Birnin Gwari Local Government Area of the state.

This was disclosed by Ishaq Usman Kasai, Chairman, Birnin-Gwari Emirate Progressive Union (BEPU), in a statement yesterday evening. Kasai also said the terrorists have given farmers in the area up to Friday to pay N12m before they could harvest their crops or anyone seen on the farm will be abducted for ransom.

He also said the bandits informed some farming communities including Kwaga, Kwanan-Shehu, Unguwan Liman, and Unguwan Shekarau to pay levies running into N12 million (N3 million each) before they will be allowed to continue harvesting their crops.

According to him, the communities have been given the grace of Friday to meet the condition; "fail-

ure of which the bandits vowed to kidnap any person found on the farm. The union found that these helpless communities have started making contributions based on their farm sizes to meet the condition and the dateline.

The union also gave an updates on the previous attacks and abductions in the area, saying the six people kidnapped at Farm Centre last Saturday in Kwaga Community, were released on Wednesday after the bandits collected 20 bowls of rice, 20 bowls of beans, 25 litres of red oil, 25 litres of groundnut oil and call cards worth N10,000.

BEPU also said four people from Unguwan Liman, who were kidnapped last Saturday and one resident of Unguwan Shekarau, were released on Wednesday after payment of N2.5 million ransom.

The union also said five farmers earlier kidnapped on Thursday, September 15, at Kurg Gabas and Sabon-Layi areas luckily escaped from the kidnappers' den in the early hours of last Friday, after spending a week in captivity."

The Kaduna State Government and the Police Command were yet to react to the development.