

Rising Insecurity: Sokoto residents protest, block highway, as bandits kill 15, abduct cleric, district head

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Residents of over 10 villages in Shagari Local Government Area displaced by bandits due to incessant attacks and killings have blocked the Shagari-Sokoto Highway to express their frustration towards the government over the hardships they face due to bandit attacks in their area.

Hundreds of men and women have been abducted from Shagari Town, the headquarters of Shagari Local Government Area.

This is as the community leader of Rinaye and community imam and undertermined number of residents were kidnapped after killing three people

The aggrieved residents are demanding government intervention in addressing bandit attacks that are affecting them.

The protesting residents blocked the ma-

jor highway connecting Sokoto to Kebbi and Niger states.

One of the residents from the village of Rinaye revealed that, "the government's neglect has forced us to block the highway to draw their attention and that of security agencies to take action to drive out the bandits from our area.

"For three consecutive days, they have been coming to kidnap our people, and no security personnel have been deployed to protect us."

He stated that the bandits have

been terrorising the villagers for three consecutive days, starting with three villages on Friday and continuing on Saturday and Sunday.

"In Rinaye, they kidnapped our community leader and the Imam after killing three people and abducting an undertermined number of residents on Saturday and Sunday," the source said.

"The bandits also attacked the villages of Aske Dodo, Tungar Barke and Jandutse, leaving them deserted.

"They killed two people and kidnapped 15 others," according to the source.

The resident lamented that the security agencies and government have done nothing so far to address their plight.

Malama Tunba, a mother of five; three girls and two boys, who fled from Jandutse Village, said she has no idea where her children are after they ran away on Saturday and have not eaten all day.

Tunba appealed to the government to provide them with security so they can return to their homes, citing the immense hardship they are facing.

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) released a statement saying they are aware of the displacement of people due to banditry in the area.



The protesters

Lagos roads accident daims 6 lives – LASTMA

The Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) has said that six persons lost their lives in an accident that occurred at Ibeju, Lekki-Epe Expressway area of the state.

The General Manager of LASTMA, Mr Olalekan Bakare-Oki, who confirmed the incident in a statement yesterday, said nine other persons who sustained varying degrees of injury were rescued by the authority in collaboration with other emergency agencies.

"The deceased comprised two adult males, three adult females and one minor," he added.

According to him, the nine injured survivors, three males

and six females, were extricated by LASTMA with support from other emergency responders.

"They were immediately conveyed to the Federal Medical Centre (FMC), Epe and Hammond Hospital for urgent medical attention.

"The remains of the deceased were deposited at the FMC morgue, pending formal identification by their bereaved families," he said.

He added that four individuals escaped unhurt from the wreckage of the tragic incident.

Bakare-Oki said the victims were promptly attended to by the LASTMA Rescue Unit in collaboration with the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), the Nigeria Police Force

(NPF) and the Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC).

"Their collaborative efforts ensured rapid evacuation and immediate restoration of order at the scene," he said.

Bakare-Oki said preliminary investigations revealed that the accident, which involved a blue Volvo FL6 truck conveying wooden planks and a white commercial bus (AKD 336 YD), was caused by speeding and reckless driving.

The general manager extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and decried the persistent menace of reckless driving on Lagos highways.

NAPTIP receives 12 trafficked victims en route Saudi Arabia in Kano

Kano: Police arrest 107 suspects