

Again, Bandits Kill 10, Abduct Others in Niger Communities

Laleye Dipo in Minna

While Niger State was celebrating the release of abducted students of Government Science College, Kagara, bandits have again stormed the state, killing, maiming and kidnapping people across two senatorial zones.

The zones affected are the Niger East and Niger South senatorial zones.

No fewer than 10 persons were said to have been killed in the two zones, while at least 26 others, mostly women were abducted with a large number of cattle rustled.

Eight persons among those kidnapped were abducted near the Government Technical College, Pandogari, fueling the initial speculations that they were students of the school while one Aminu who produces satchet water and his three children were also kidnapped in the town.

But the Information Officer of

the State Ministry of Education, Mr. Jibrin Usman Kodo said those kidnapped around the school were not students, adding that "in fact, we have closed almost all the schools in that area".

The bandits visited Katcha LGA in the Niger South senatorial zone where they killed one person and abducted three others.

The three kidnapped were said to be successful businessmen in the town.

"The bandits were many they came with AK-47 rifles and were shooting anyhow," one eyewitness told THISDAY on phone, adding that the security men in the area were of no assistance.

The Katcha LGA Chairman, Alhaji Mohammad Baba Nna in a telephone interview said "the incident happened around 1am (Sunday) and lasted for three hours, saying that "they went away with three persons who are businessmen in the town and we are yet to hear from them.

"They came with very sophisticated weapons and I am sure that's why the Policemen were afraid to come to their rescue during the incident," Nna said. However few hours after the 12

people were abducted and taken into the bush, some villages within the same Rafi LGA came under serious attacks, leaving five people dead and unspecified number of others kidnapped.

In another Saturday night operation in Maikunjeri village in Chiikun Ward, four people were killed and many, including women abducted.

Over 100 cattle were reported

to have been rustled by the bandits from this area. Another gang was said to have invaded Kundu village, in Gunna Ward in the same Rafi LGA and unleashed terror on the people.



IN A MOURNING MOOD...

Former member of National Assembly representing Enugu North senatorial zone, Senator Ayogu Eze; Enugu State Governor, Hon. Ifeanyi I. Igwe, and the Senator representing Enugu North, Senator Chukwuka I. Itazi, during the funeral rites of a member of Government Council