

Police, Army Rescue Bwari, Sauka Kidnap Victims

● **Bandits kill one in Niger, kidnap 21 others** ● **Troops repel suspected herdsmen in Agatu**

Olawale Ajimotokan in Abuja,
Laleye Dipo in Minna and **George Okoh** in Makurdi

The joint operation of the Federal Capital Territory Police Command and the Nigerian Army, has rescued the persons kidnapped at Zuma 1 and Sagwari Estate Layout of Bwari Area Council and Sauka, along Airport Road, Abuja.

Also, after a respite of about six weeks, banditry resurfaced in Niger communities especially the villages

adjoining Kaduna State, where they killed one person and kidnapped 21 others.

At the same time, Force Commander of Operation Whirl Stroke (OPWS), Major General Sunday Igbinowania, has disclosed that forces of the operation repelled the attack by suspected Fulani militias for several hours, during an attack on some communities in Agatu Local Government Area of Benue State on Thursday.

Meanwhile, those who regained

their freedom in Bwari included the five Nahebaa sisters, who were abducted at Sagwari Estate, Bwari, on January 2.

The criminals who abducted them had killed three other captives while demanding a ransom of N700 million to free the victims.

The FCT Police Public Relations Officer, SP Josephine Adeh, who quoted the FCT Police Commissioner, Haruna Garba, confirmed their freedom in statement issued to newsmen in Abuja, yesterday.

She said the victims, who were rescued around Kajuru Forest, Kaduna State, had since been reunited with their families.

The statement stated: "Following the relentless advancement of the Federal Capital Territory Police Command Anti-Kidnapping squad in a concerted effort with troops of the Nigerian Army, on the heels of the kidnappers that struck the Zuma 1 area in the Bwari Area Council on the 2nd of January 2024, The FCT Police has rescued the victims and reunited them with their families.

"The operatives successfully rescued the Victims around Kajuru forest in Kaduna state at about 11:30 pm on Saturday 20th January 2024.

"While appreciating the Inspectors General of Police IGP Olukayode Egbetokun, for the deployment of the newly commissioned Special Intervention Squad, which has given an uplift to the existing

security architecture of the FCT and has brewed public confidence, the Commissioner of Police FCT Command CP Haruna G. Garba, wishes to reiterate the Commands commitment to sustaining the robust security deployment made in the area and other parts of the Territory for the utmost maintenance of peace for all and sundry."

The Police also confirmed that operatives attached to Iddo Divisional Headquarters, yesterday, rescued another kidnapped victim, a man, Suleiman Sabo, from Kidnappers in Sauka, along Airport Road, Abuja.

The police said during the rescue operation, one Mr. Muhammad Abel aged 32, from Kogi state was apprehended while one LAR rifle with 10 rounds of life ammunition was recovered from him.

The Police added that the victim, who sustained some injuries from the kidnappers, was currently receiving medical attention and would be reunited with his family once certified fit by the medical team.

In a related development, the FCT police command, has refuted the story making the rounds that a kidnapping incident took place at River Park estate in the nation's capital.

The FCT PPRO, SP Josephine Adeh, in a statement, quoted the FCT Police Commissioner, Haruna Garba as saying: "The FCT police Command is aware of the news

making rounds about an alleged kidnapping incident at River Park estate in the early hours of today and wishes to state that contrary to reports, nobody was kidnapped in River Park Estate.

"One Nnandi Agu 'm' of Games Village only faked his own kidnap in an attempt to defraud his brother who lives within the said Estate.

"The suspect is currently in police custody undergoing interrogation. While investigation is still ongoing, further development would be communicated to the public."

Bandits Storm Niger Community Kill 1, Kidnap 21 Others

After a respite of about six weeks, banditry has resurfaced in Niger communities, especially those villages adjoining Kaduna State.

The recent activities of the bandits were despite the posting of men of the local vigilante at the routes usually taken by the bandits which had stopped them from entering the state.

However, THISDAY learnt that between Friday and Saturday the bandits struck at Dangunu village taking away 21 Villagers and killing one person.

According to the findings the criminals first abducted five villagers before going to kidnap one Alhaji Ahmadu Adamu Dangunu with his wives and children.

On their way out of the community it was gathered that the bandits released the first five villagers kidnapped but went away with Adamu and members of his family.

The heavily armed gunmen, THISDAY was told accessed the Dangunu by boat from the river between Chikun and the town. They were also said to have escaped with the family members through the same route.

An eyewitness said two years ago, Alhaji Adamu described as a big time farmer in the area was kidnapped and was released only after huge ransom was paid by his relation.

The latest incident, the eyewitness said might be the handiwork of informants since most farmers had completed the harvests of their crops.

However, reports from the Community on Sunday claimed Adamu was later killed by the gunmen and his remains dumped in the bush.

The eyewitness said the remains were brought to the community on Sunday afternoon amidst wailing by villagers, and expected to be buried according to Islamic rites later in the day.

60 Nigerian Physicians in Americas Coming to Abia on Free Medical Outreach

Emmanuel Ugwu-Nwogo in Umuahia

No fewer than 60 Nigerian medical doctors practising in North and South America are expected in Abia State for a free medical outreach aimed at complementing the efforts of the state government in improving the health sector.

The healthcare mission put together by the Association of Nigerian Physicians in the Americas (ANPA), has been scheduled to take place between April 4 and 10, 2024.

This was made known in a statement jointly signed by the Abia Commissioner for Health, Dr Ngozi Okoronkwo and the chairman of the

with different medical cases, while thousands of others would receive free medical treatments.

Apart from the over 60 physicians from North and South America, other Nigerian experts in various branches of medicine, who are based in the two continents would also be part of the medical team.

According to the statement, surgeries would be conducted simultaneously at three designated centres with the necessary facilities, including FMC Umuahia, Abia Diagnostic Centre, Umuahia, and Abia Specialist Hospital, Amachara, Umuahia.

It stated further that, "various complicated cases including screening