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4 policemen killed in crossfire with Kaduna 'bandits'

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By Evelyn Usman, with agency report

Suspected kidnappers have killed four policemen in Jankasa village, Rigasa, Igabi local government area of Kaduna State.

The policemen were said to be on their way for an operation in the area when they were ambushed around 7pm on Saturday.



Policemen on training

The deceased: three Inspectors and a Sergeant stormed the kidnappers den, where an Islamic cleric, Ahmad Algarkawi, who was abducted, was kept for days before he was released after ransom was paid.

The bandits were said to have engaged the police in a fierce gun battle, leading to the death of the officers.

Yakubu Sabo, spokesman of the Kaduna State police command, confirmed the incident in a text message.

He said the officers killed were of the Inspector-General of Police, IGP, Intelligence Rapid Response Team, IRT.

“At about 6.30a.m. on Saturday, a team of detectives attached to IGP IRT while on operation along Jankasa village of Rigasa Kaduna, were ambushed by armed bandits.

“After a fierce gun battle, four of our policemen paid the supreme sacrifice.”

He said reinforcement was mobilised to the area, with the view to bring the perpetrators to book, but no arrest has been made yet.

The high rate of insecurity in Kaduna has been a source of concern to residents and the governments.

Kidnapping, robbery and clashes between farmers and herdsmen are among the challenges confronting the government in the state.

Their murdered officers are Inspector Benard Odibo, with Force number 148333; Inspector Mamman Abubakar, with Force number 181539; Inspector Haruna Ibrahim, with AP/No. 192938 and Sergeant Emmanuel Istifanus, with Force number 267815.

As at yesterday, operatives of the IRT were gloomy, as some of them described the fate that befell their colleagues as one of the hazards of the job.

Vanguard gathered bodies of the operatives were deposited at Saint Gerald Hospital Mortuary Kaduna State for Autopsy, while efforts were still on to arrest the suspects.

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