

Kidnapper killed in Kaduna, Baptist cleric regains freedom

By Ben Agande

KADUNA—POLICE operatives, yesterday, killed a kidnapper after five of the bandits blocked Kaduna-Zaria Highway.

This came as Rev. Elisha Numan of Baptist Church, Ungwan Makere, Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State, has been freed by his abductors after 15 days in captivity.

The cleric was abducted in his house by gunmen on Wednesday, August 14, at 2a.m., alongside his son Emmanuel.

The son was later released by the bandits with instructions from the bandits to go and source for money to secure his father's release.

Although the bandits initially demanded a ransom of N20 million, a family source said the money was "significantly scaled down" following series of negotiations.

The source added: "Since the security agencies seemed to be helpless in tackling these criminals, we can only pray to God to visit His wrath upon the criminals. We had to borrow money to secure his release."

Chairman of Kaduna State chapter of Christian Association of Nigeria, CAN, Rev. Joseph Hayab, confirmed the pastor's release, but called on government and security agencies to address the increasing wave of kidnappings in Kaduna State.

On the killed kidnapper, security sources said about five suspected kidnappers were involved in the blocking of the road before their encounter with the Police.

It was gathered that the other suspects ran into the bush, while a locally-made rifle was recovered from the dead bandit.

At press time, Kaduna State Police Public Relations Officer, Yakubu Sabo, was yet to respond to text message sent to his phone for a confirmation.

Recall that a member of Kaduna State House of Assembly, Ibrahim Dabo, was kidnapped on Kaduna-Zaria Road, but released after a ransom of N10 million was paid by his family members.