

Gunmen kill 35, kidnap 58 in Kaduna

- Demand N100m ransom
- We're studying claims — Police

NO fewer than 35 people have been reportedly killed and another 58 abducted after suspected bandits invaded 10 communities in Chikun and Birnin Gwari Local Government Areas of Kaduna State.

Meanwhile, when contacted, yesterday, over the development, the state's police spokesperson, Yakubu Sabo, said they were studying the claim and would respond appropriately, promising to issue a statement once they

finish their investigation.

The gunmen were said to have invaded the villages and carried out the attacks on January 6, and subsequently demanded the payment of N100 million ransom for the release of their victims.

The attacks had caused some residents to panic and flee their homes and are now taking refuge in government schools and other communities.

Speaking when President of Southern Kaduna Peoples Union, SOKAPU,

Jonathan Asake, visited victims of the attack at a school, one Habila Noma, a clergyman, said the bandits had called to say "we must produce N100 million as ransom if we want to have them alive."

He alleged that the suspects were herdsmen, who have been attacking the villages persistently, and "would graze on our crops and threatened to kill us if we protest."

"Sometimes when they attack and take captives, we will manage and pay ransom. Even after paying, sometimes they kill the victims."

"But the attack that took place on January 6, 2020, was the worst, they killed a total of 35 people and kidnapped a total of 58 people from 10 villages."

produce and also destroyed their houses, leaving them with nothing to call their own.

"Here at Ungwar Beji, there are about 200 of them with no food, beds or clothes while we were also told that about 8,000 of them had converged on Buruku with nothing with them."

"Worst of all, most of the children are sick. This calls for concern of all people of goodwill to come to their aid in any kind to give them hope of survival before steps could be taken on the area of their education."

Insecurity: Nig before ISIS inv

● Releases names of

By Luminous Jannamike, with agency report

ABUJA—A Catholic charity group, Aid to Church in Need, ACN International, has compared the security situation in Nigeria to that of Iraq prior to the Islamic State's invasion.

The group stated this, yesterday, in a reaction to the abduction of four Catholic seminarians, between the ages of 18 and 23, by gunmen in Kaduna State.

Executive President of the group, Thomas Heine-Geldern, said: "The security situation in Nigeria is appalling. Criminal gangs are further exploiting the chaotic situation and are making matters worse. It is comparable to the situation of Iraq prior to the Islamic State's invasion."

"Already at that stage, Christians were being abducted, robbed and murdered because there was

HEALTH TIPS

By Solu Ogundipe

Bleeding gums

If your gums bleed when you brush or floss your teeth, you might shrug it off or think this is normal. But bleeding from the gums indicates an underlying problem.

Factors like brushing too vigorously, injury, pregnancy, and inflammation can contribute to bleeding gums. Gum inflammation can cause redness, swelling, and tenderness, and it can be a sign of periodontal disease, such as gingivitis.

Practice good oral hygiene. Bleeding gums may be a sign of poor dental hygiene.

Gums become inflamed and bleed when there's a build-up of plaque along the gum line. Plaque is a sticky film containing bacteria that covers your teeth and gums. And if you don't brush or floss enough, the bacteria can spread and cause tooth decay or gum disease.

To improve oral hygiene, brush your teeth at least twice daily and floss once a day.

Rinse your mouth with hydrogen peroxide. If your gums are bleeding, rinse your

mouth with hydrogen peroxide after brushing, but don't swallow the solution.

Gingivitis is an inflammation of the gums, and this condition can cause bleeding, swelling, and receding gums. Increase your intake of vitamin C. Eating foods rich in vitamin C can strengthen your immune system and help fight off the gum infections that cause bleeding gums.

Taking a vitamin K supplement may also alleviate bleeding gums. Vitamin K is an important nutrient because it helps your blood clot and may lead to gum bleeding.

Bleeding gums aren't always caused by gum disease. Your gums may also bleed from trauma or an injury to the gum tissue.

Because bacteria and inflammation in the mouth causes gum disease, regularly rinsing your mouth with a mixture of warm salt water may also reduce bacteria and stop gum bleeding.

Villages affected

He listed the affected villages to include Badna, Zankoro, Hayin Damisa, Unguwan Badole, Badimi, Kuderu and Unguwan Doma in Chikun Local Government Area while others include Rumana Gbagyi, Rumana Hausa and Malomo in Birnin Gwari Local Government Area.

According to him, the invaders came in hundreds and were well armed.

Appeal for assistance

Addressing journalists during the visit, Asake asked the government and international community to come to the aid of the victims.

He said: "As you can see from the way these people are, they are seriously traumatised and need immediate assistance to be able to have a semblance of living."

"We have been told that the suspected bandits destroyed all their farm