

Phone thieves unleash terror in Kano

- **Physiotherapist murdered for struggling to retrieve phone from hoodlums**
- **Man on way to mosque stabbed, phone snatched**
- **Fear grips residents of areas dominated by 'Yan Daba' boys**

By Bashir Bello, Kano

PALPABLE fear now haunts residents and motorists on parts of Kano as they are now frequently attacked by street gangs popularly known as "Yan Daba" who specialise in snatching phones from their owners.

The gangs, according to findings, do not only snatch expensive phones from their owners, but also waste no time in killing or wounding those who attempt to struggle with them.

Arewa Voice correspondent reports that the hoodlums carry out their nefarious trade mostly at night or on roads with heavy traffic when motorists are forced to slow down.

The areas mostly affected are Kantin Kwari Market to Kofar Mata, Rumfa College, Bakal and Dan-Agundi, among others.

Our correspondent reports that hardly does a day pass without residents sharing their bitter experiences in the hands of the deadly gangs, mostly youths, who terrorise the city with dangerous weapons, including sharp knives, axes and swords.

Last week, a physiotherapist, Atiku Tijjani Ringim, was gunned down by the criminal elements when he resisted their



A victim of phone snatching who was killed.

attempt to snatch his phone at night.

The deceased's brother, Dr Idris Tijjani Shuaibu, told AV that his brother met his untimely death in the hands of the gangsters while on a visit to one of his friends, who he did not meet in the house at the time of his arrival.

Shuaibu explained that his late brother who had just graduated from the School of Nursing, Birnin Kudu and yet to start practice, was attacked close to the first gate, Red Bricks, along Gwarzo Road, Gwale LGA around 10pm on Thursday night where he went to see a friend.



• "Yan daba" thugs who unleash terror, snatch phones from residents in Kano

"Unfortunately, when he arrived his friend's house, he was not around and he had to phone him to know his whereabouts.

"Unknown to him that he was being trailed by phone thieves, the deceased was immediately attacked and killed by the

dreaded gang members who fled in their motorcycle when neighbours came out," Shuaibu narrated.

Despite spirited attempts to save his life, Ringim passed on at the Murtala Muhammed Specialist Hospital where he was

Thursday in Makurdi during the public destruction of hard drug exhibits seized by the Benue state Command of NDLEA said the government was doing everything to apprehend all those involved in the illicit drug

Continues on page 22

rushed to that night.

Apart from Ringim, many other persons, including Rabi'u Anas Auwal, Dawuda Adam and Ibrahim Shuaibu have been attacked and inflicted with severe knife injuries and their expensive phones taken away by the attackers.

Thousands of IDPs in Borno protest food shortage

NTI reporter