

Bandits kill 2 vigilantes, 5 others in Kaduna; cars, 330 bags of maize burnt

●Troops neutralise many bandits

By Ibrahim Hassan Wuyo

TWO vigilantes and five others reportedly lost their lives, Wednesday evening, when bandits attacked the weekly Galadimawa market in Giwa Local Government

Area of Kaduna State.

Speaking on the attack, yesterday, Kaduna State Commissioner, Ministry of Internal Security and Home Affairs, Samuel Aruwan, said the bandits were neutralised after the attack.

He said, according to the security

report, the bandits sneaked into the market around 4 pm and opened fire on the vigilantes, in the process killing the following operatives: Yusuf Magaji Iyatawa and Dabo Bafillace.

While escaping, the bandits killed the following five citizens: Danjuma

Haladu, Shuaibu Isyaku, Isyaku Adamu, Shehu Dalhatu and Musa Haruna Kerawa.

A commercial trailer driver, one Alhaji Yusuf Tumburku, who had just loaded 330 bags of maize belonging to a trader, Alhaji Hamza Ungwan Lalle Giwa, had his vehicle and the grains burnt to ashes. One other car was burnt by the armed bandits.

The security agencies comprising the police and troops gave the bandits a hot pursuit while they escaped out of the general area.

The bandits, who were on about 15 motorcycles, met their end in the hands of aggressive fighting air platforms which engaged them and subsequently neutralised several of them.

The ground troops are still carrying out clearance operations in the Galadimawa and Kidandan general areas.

The Governor of Kaduna State, Malam Nasir el-Rufai, has sent condolences to the families that lost their loved ones and commended the military and police for neutralizing the armed bandits.

The Governor charged locals in the Galadimawa and Kidandan general areas of Giwa local government to continue to volunteer useful information to the government and security agencies.

nap Oyo dep minority leader's sister, demand

●Abducted victims regain freedom after paying ransom in Edo

gunmen, who drove in a white Toyota Camry. I was told the abductors shot into the air twice and forced her from her car into theirs.

He said: "I have not heard anything, but we are still hoping to get positive response from them; they contacted a member of the family and demanded N20 million but the terms and conditions are yet to be agreed upon.

"I'm appealing to the state government and security agencies to please rescue my sister. This is a festive period, they need to beef up the security of the state and police should please get back to work.

"On behalf of the good citizens of Oyo State, I'm appealing to the police to get back to work fully because their absence has been causing a lot of panic in the state."

Speaking, yesterday, on the incident, Oyo State Police Public Relations Officer, Olugbenga Fadeyi, said he was not aware of the kidnap.

"I don't have any information about the incident, maybe they did not report the incident to the police. I don't think they reported it to the police, but I will find out," Fadeyi said.

Abducted victims regain freedom after paying ransom in Edo

Meanwhile, five of the passengers reportedly kidnapped, Tuesday, in a commercial bus along the Benin-Auchi road on their way to Abuja have been reportedly released after ransoms were paid by their family

members.

It was gathered that the kidnappers had earlier demanded N5 million as ransom to be paid for each of their victims, but ransoms varying from N800,000 to N3m were reportedly paid.

A source close to some security agencies confirmed that about five persons have been freed after paying different fees as ransom, adding: "It was a horrifying experience for the victims and their families who worked had to raise the money."

The source added that those whose families have not raised the ransom are still with the kidnappers.

The state Police Command's spokesperson, Chidi Nwabuzor, was not available for comment on the issue.