

# Bandits kill 3, abduct 18 passengers in Kaduna, Niger

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*with agency report*

**T**HE Kaduna State government, weekend, said three passengers were killed by suspected bandits around Yakowa village in Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

Kaduna State Commissioner for Internal Security and Home Affairs, Mr Samuel Aruwan, said security agencies reported the attack on a commercial vehicle around Yakwo village in Chikun Local Government Area.

He said Governor Nasir el-Rufai expressed sadness over the development and prayed for the repose of the souls of those killed

by the bandits, while sending condolences to their families.

The commissioner said investigations into the incident were in progress, as troops continue to intensify patrols in the general areas.

## 18 kidnapped in Niger

Meanwhile, 18 passengers were, yesterday, kidnapped by bandits at Yakila village in Rafi Local Government Area of Niger State.

It was gathered that one of the passengers, a nursing mother, was left on the highway, while 18 others were led into the bush.

The passengers reportedly boarded Niger State Transport Authority bus from Kontagora to

Minna, the state capital when they were abducted.

Director-General of Niger State Emergency Management Agency, Mallam Ibrahim Inga, who confirmed the incident, said: "I was on my way from Kagara with the Chief of Staff to the Governor, Alhaji Ibrahim Kagara, for the re-validation of our party (APC) membership when we met a woman with her child, who the bandits left behind from the same bus, and whisked the other 18 into the bush."

Inga, however, said the woman and her baby have been taken to Minna.

Efforts to get the State Police Public Relations Officer, Wasiu Abiodun, proved abortive as he did not pick calls.