

# Bandits kill 20 in Sokoto, Kaduna communities

By Ibrahim Hassan Wuyo

**TWENTY** locals were killed in different attacks by bandits in Sokoto and Kaduna states yesterday, while many sustained severe injuries, 10 houses, two motorcycles and 50 bags of ginger were set ablaze.

The bandits reportedly attacked Amarawa village in Ilesa Local Government Area of Sokoto State where they killed 10 locals while others sustained injuries.

According to a BBC Hausa report monitored in Kaduna, the locals attempted to stop the bandits from abducting a wealthy businessman from the community.

A native of the affected community said: "The gunmen, who came on motorbikes, had warned the residents, who tried to free the businessman, to stay away. The locals were adamant to stop them, but the gunmen possessed superior weapons and they overpowered the locals, killing many."

He said the gunmen succeeded and whisked away the businessman.

The police in Sokoto had confirmed the attack but told the BBC Hausa they could not give details as they were still on the investigation.

A local said they were preparing the dead for burial while those who sustained gunshot wounds were in the hospitals where doctors had removed bullets from their bodies.

The locals, however, appealed to the authorities to beef up security in the area as hardly a day passes without gunmen kidnapping a person or two, in the Ilesa communities.

## Wamakko condemns killings

Meanwhile, Senator Aliyu Wamakko has condemned the killings. In a statement by his Senior Special Assistant, Media, Bashir Rabe Mani, Wamakko said the bandits had also kidnapped several persons from the two towns, while many others were maimed and internally displaced.

He said: "These notorious and guns wielding bandits had unleashed such attacks in other parts of the state, as well as other parts of Nigeria, especially the North."

Wamakko solicited the support of all Nigerians in finding solutions to the security challenges in the country.

"All and sundry should, however, sustain fervent prayers, for divine intervention in the security quagmire," he appealed.

## 10 killed in Kaduna

Also, yesterday, the Kaduna State government disclosed that suspected bandits killed 10 persons in Zangon Kataf and Chikun Local Government Areas of the state.

Commissioner of Internal Security and Home Affairs, Samuel Anuwan, who confirmed the killing in a statement in Kaduna, said the military and other security agencies had reported the killing of 10 citizens in Zangon Kataf and Chikun Local Government Areas.

"In Zangon Kataf, Kurmin Gandu village was attacked by bandits, with five persons killed. Also, 10 houses, two motorcycles and 50 bags of ginger were set ablaze."

"Some dry season farmers lost water pumping machines and other valuables around the Zango Urban

general area.

According to the commissioner, some survivors of the attack are recuperating in the hospital.

Anuwan added that search and rescue operations were in progress, and information arising from the exercise would be communicated to the public.

He explained that it took the military hours to contain what would have resulted in further violence in

the general area.

Similarly, security agencies reported that armed bandits attacked Sabon Gayan village in Chikun local government area and killed four persons," he said.

He said troops of Operation Thunder Strike were combing identified criminal hideouts in the Sabon Gayan area, following reports that several bandits sustained bullet wounds.

"In another incident, bandits attacked Unigwan Rural, also in Chikun Local Government Area and killed one person," Anuwan said.

Meanwhile, Governor Nasir el-Rufai has expressed sadness at the attacks, and sent his condolences to the families of those killed, while praying for the repose of their souls. The governor also wished those injured quick recovery.

## 172 fun-seekers arrested for violating COVID-19 protocol in Lagos

• They locked more than 100 of us in single cell—Suspect

By Esther Onyegbula

**ONE** hundred and seventy two fun seekers were arrested at a Lagos night club for violating COVID-19 protocol by Lagos State Police Command.

Parading the suspects in Ikeja, yesterday, the Commissioner of Police, Hakeem Odumosu, said the suspects were arrested in the early hours of Saturday.

Odumosu said: "They were arrested around 2 am at Cubana Night Club. There were 172 inside a nightclub, without observing social distancing."

"Only about 10 people had nose masks. They have violated the law of the state and will be charged to court. We will comply with whatever decision the court takes. Our job is to get them arrested for violating COVID-19 regulations and charge them before the court of law."

The command boss said the owner of the club had not been arrested, adding that staff of the club that were arrested would be prosecuted



A cross section of those arrested.

in accordance with the law.

### Suspect's account

However, when approached, the suspects alleged that shots were fired in the club's premises by the policemen when they stormed there.

One of the suspects, Natasha Davids, said: "When we went to

the club, we didn't know that the police would come there. The policemen came around 2 am. They fired some shots inside the club. They broke bottles, and collected some people's phones. They locked more than a hundred people in a single cell. We haven't taken our bath. Some of those arrested alongside us have been released."

## Benue school sends pupils home over 'spiritual attack'

• It's mere spiritual attack rampant in part of Tiv land —Education scribe

**FEMALE** pupils of Universal Basic Education Junior Secondary School in Makurdi, Benue State capital were, yesterday, sent home when seven of them were attacked spiritually.

It was gathered that four of the female students of the school located at Nyinma area of the state capital were attacked spiritually on Friday while three others were attacked, yesterday, necessitating the school authority to send all the female pupils home.

According to the headteacher of the school, Catherine Ahom, who later referred our correspondent to the Education Secretary, the pupils experienced a seizure and complained of chest pain "from there, they would fall and some

others would be running around."

The spiritual attack, according to the headteacher, is called "Iyor genen" in Tiv language.

Contacted, Education Secretary, Makurdi Local Government Area Education Authority, Patrick Aese, who allayed fear, said the attack was not contagious but a mere spiritual attack that is rampant in the part of Tiv land.

According to Aese, "It is a spiritual matter. Just go back to the school tomorrow, those children will be back to normal."

"If it were to be at the village, traditionalists know what to administer and within one hour they become normal. They know how

they control it to make it subside.

"It is very common here in Tiv land. There is a particular group of Tiv that is mostly known for it (spiritual attack) but to other places it is alien."

"Within the area where it happens frequently, we don't fear it. We know the limitations and how they can be contained, it is not transferable. The thing started many years ago, our forefathers inherited it."

"It is most common during burial and in most cases while whistling. Noise and some colours like red trigger it among the affected people and when attacked, the affected people will be running and manifesting uncommon strength."



**SCARCITY:** Petrol hawkers waiting with their empty jerry cans in front of a filling station in the Central Business District of Abuja, yesterday as fuel scarcity spreads. Photo: NAN.