

Bandits kill 3 abducted university students

**They're daily sacking more villages; Niger Gov cries out*

By Ibrahim Hassan Wuyo

Bandits who kidnapped unspecified number of students at the Greenfield University, located at Kasarami village off Kaduna-Abuja Road in Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna state last Tuesday have shot dead three of the abducted students. This is just as Niger State Governor, Abubakar Sani Bello has cried out that bandits were daily sacking villages and sending more of the people to the Internally Displaced Persons, IDPs camps across the state

The remains of the killed students of Greenfield University were found yesterday in Kwanan Bature village, a location close to the university, according to the state commissioner for Internal Security and Home Affairs, Mr Samuel Aruwan. He said the corpses of the students have been evacuated to a mortuary. The state government is yet to confirm the exact number of students of the university who have been taken hostage.

In a statement he issued yesterday, the commissioner said, "In an act of mindless evil and sheer wickedness, the armed bandits who kidnapped students of Greenfield University, have shot dead three of the abducted students. The armed bandits on

Tuesday night kidnapped an unspecified number of students at the institution located at Kasarami village off Kaduna-Abuja Road in Chikun LGA.

"The remains of three students were found today (Friday), in Kwanan Bature village, a location close to the university and have been evacuated to a mortuary by the Commissioner, Internal Security and Home Affairs, and Force Commander, Operation Thunder Strike, Lt.Col. MH Abdullahi."

The killing is sheer wickedness

—Gov El-Rufai

Aruwan said, "Nasir el-Rufai, the state governor described the killing of the students as sheer wickedness, inhumanity and an outright desecration of human lives by vile entities. The governor said the bandits represent the worst of humankind and must be fought at all cost for the violent wickedness they represent. Evil would not triumph over God-given humanity. He further appealed to citizens to come together against the forces of darkness challenging the very existence of the Nigerian State.

"The Governor, on behalf of the Government and people of Kaduna State sent deep condolences and empathy to the students' families and the university community, as he prayed for the

repose of their souls. The Government will keep citizens informed of further developments."

Kaduna State Government has a policy of not paying ransom to kidnappers as the governor, Nasir El-Rufai, said it would encourage more kidnappings. He has repeatedly declared that bandits should be killed in order to end banditry in the country.

Kaduna is one of the states in Nigeria most affected by rampant kidnappings by bandits in recent times.

The attack on the university is the third time bandits were attacking schools in Kaduna this year.

On March 11, bandits stormed Federal College of Forestry Mechanisation, Afaka-Kaduna in Igabi Local Government Area and abducted 39 students. Five of the students escaped from the bandits and five others were later released on health grounds while 29 of the students are still in captivity.

Two days after the attack in Afaka, gunmen attacked Government Science Secondary School, Ikara in Kaduna but the planned abduction of the students was foiled by security operatives.

Earlier on March 6, gunmen, armed with dangerous weapons attacked the Junior Staff Quarters of the Kaduna International Airport and abducted some members of staff and their families.

One of the victims, who is a member of staff of the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA), was kidnapped with his wife, five children, and three other persons who had visited them.

Elsewhere, the wife and child of an employee of the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET) were also kidnapped during the attack. The Regional Manager of NIMET in the North Central, Sani Majidadi said that the gunmen invaded the junior staff quarters at the airport and broke into two apartments. Majidadi explained that the gunmen, in their large number, came through a bush from Ifira Village and cut the air-side perimeter fence before gaining access into the staff quarters.

According to him, the armed men escaped into the bush upon hearing the gunshots from the security operatives. In 2020, several workers were kidnapped, and one person was killed by bandits, a situation that prompted the Kaduna State government to deploy troops along the Airport Road.

Bandits are daily sacking our villages

—Gov Bello

Meanwhile, Governor Abubakar Sani Bello of Niger State has expressed worry about the continued invasion and sacking of villagers from their ancestral homes in different parts of the state which he said has been increasing the population of Internally

displaced Persons in the various camps across the state. In the past three days, there had been more influx of more displaced persons from Chiro, Kuchi and Guni to IDP Camp in Gwada.

The Governor, while empathizing with the displaced persons, said security efforts were being intensified to bring an enduring solution to the incessant attacks by the bandits.

"Government is not unmindful of the precarious situation you found yourselves in as we are making frantic efforts to intervene and ensure that your communities are rid of those criminal elements and made safe for your return," he remarked.

Governor Sani Bello acknowledged the fact that most of the displaced persons were predominantly farmers and needed to go back to their homes ahead of the coming rainy season.

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