

Bandits kill Zamfara district head, his 2 sons, 3 others

● *Security operatives rescue kidnapped victims*

By Ibrahim Hassan

KADUNA — Daredevil bandits in the wee hours of yesterday, again invaded Gada village in Maru Local Government Area of Zamfara State and killed a District Head, Alhaji Umaru Allah, his two sons and three others.

The bandits were said have moved from house to house in the community and unleashed mayhem on the residents.

It was gathered that apart from the killings, the bandits also abducted several villagers especially women and children and equally razed down the house of the district head of the community.

The bandits were, however, said to have run into an ambush by security operatives, forcing them to abandon their kidnapped victims, following a gun battle by Nigerian security agents and the vigilantes.

An eyewitness said: "Many of the bandits came about 1a.m. as if they knew who they wanted to kill. They searched from house to house picking those they wanted and shoot them. The bandits kidnapped many villagers, women and children.

"The victims attempted to run away but the bandits caught them. Luckily, the security agents assisted by the

local vigilantes blocked the bandits as they were leaving. They ambushed the bandits with heavy fire power near Karakai village. The bandits who survived fled and abandoned the kidnapped victims."

Gada community is about seven kilometres from Bungudu town, the headquarters of the council.

The incident occurred about three months after the Emir of Bungudu, Hassan Attahiru, was abducted by bandits along the Kaduna-Abuja Highway.

Attahiru who was kidnapped in September spent 32 days in the custody of his abductors before he was released.

It will be recalled that bandits on some communities in Gusau LGA on Sunday led to the death of three persons.

An unspecified number of villagers, mostly women, were said to have been kidnapped during the assault on Geba, Tsakuwa, Gidan Kada, and Gidan Kaura, among other villages.

The bandits, who were said to have invaded the communities on motorcycles, moved from village to village, looting shops and houses for food items.

They reportedly operated for several hours within the villages without the intervention of security operatives who were not around during the attacks.