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Monarch kidnapped twice same day in Sokoto

As bandits take over eastern part of Sokoto, kill at will

By Ibrahim Hassan-Wuyo

SOKOTO—A traditional ruler, the Uban Garin Bafarawa, was abducted twice by separate bandit groups the same day while travelling from his domain in Isa Local Government Area of Sokoto State to a hospital in the state capital.

His younger brother, Nasiru Bafarawa, said the monarch in the company of his children was on the way to Sokoto from the Isa axis, when they were first attacked by the bandits, who abducted them.

He said: "The bandits, however, decided to release him perhaps due to the condition of his health, but took two of his children with them.

"Later, the Uban Gari reasoned that since the children were taken away, it would be better he returned to his domain and see what could be done.

"They, therefore, decided to travel back home using a different route but another set of bandits intercepted and kidnapped them again, on the same day."

Although he explained that the monarch eventually returned home, his

wife's friend, who was in the hospital in Sokoto was not that lucky as the bandits shot and killed her during another encounter

"The friend of Uban Gari's wife had gone to see someone in the hospital but she was shot and killed by bandits on the way," he said.

He lamented that people living in the eastern part of Sokoto had been under siege as bandits have allegedly taken over the area, killing at will and preventing locals from engaging in farming activities.

The police in Sokoto told the VOA Hausa Service that they were yet to get the details of the incident.