

NEWS

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One killed, 3 kidnapped in Bauchi community



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Balma Village of Ningi Local Government Area, Bauchi State.

Vanguard gathered that the operation lasted from 11 p.m., on Saturday till the early hours of Sunday.

A villager told Vanguard that the village Head, the Mai Bakutunbe, and one other person were abducted in two separate incidents.

"After they kidnapped the village Head and left, one Haruna Dan OC was found on the ground after they shot him in the neck. The victim was then rushed to the Ningi General Hospital, where he was confirmed dead by a medical doctor," he said.

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Acting Chairman of Ningi Local Government Area of the state, Ibrahim Zubairu, confirmed the incident, saying the traditional ruler of Balma was sitting with people in his palace when the kidnappers who were three in number arrived in a car, stormed his palace and forcefully took him away.

He said: "Haruna Dan OC came back home on his motorcycle and was going to enter his house when the kidnappers saw him and shot him, which led to his death."

He urged the people of the council to continue praying for peace and to cooperate with the security forces to achieve peace in the area.

He assured that the council has already reported the incident to the relevant authorities to take action.

According to him, at the council level, they had taken action to ensure that the military officers in Jimi town were returned to reduce the occurrence of acts of terrorism.

Meanwhile, the Bauchi State Police Command confirmed the incident to journalists in a telephone conversation.

The Command's Public Relations Officer, Ahmed Wakil, said the second Village Head was abducted on Friday.

He said: "The Bauchi State Police Command on Sunday received a report from the Balma outstation in Ningi LGA that some gunmen stormed the village.

"They shot sporadically and took away the village head, one Hussaini Saleh, who is 48-year-old to an unknown destination.

"One Haruna Jibrin was shot in the head by the gunmen. When the Police received the distress call, a team of policemen was drafted to the scene, they rescued the victim and rushed him to the General Hospital, Ningi, where he was receiving treatment. He was later confirmed dead by a medical doctor.

"Presently, the police in Ningi Division are combing the bush trying to see how they can rescue the two abducted Village Heads alive," he noted.

Similarly, the gunmen on Saturday night stormed Bakutunbe village and kidnapped two people, the neighbourhood leader, Idris Mai Unguwa, and another man named Ya'u Maliya, who is about 45 years old.