

Gunmen kidnap eight foreigners in Nigeria

19th February, 2013



Armed attackers kidnapped eight foreign workers in northern Nigeria on Sunday. The abductees were taken from the residential

compound of a Lebanese construction company. A security guard was killed as he tried to prevent the assailants from entering the camp. The kidnapped workers are believed to be from Britain, Greece, Italy and Lebanon. A woman and her daughter are among them. A local government official, Adamu Aliyu, said the attack occurred at 2:15am. The gunmen also attacked a police station and a prison on their way to the compound. A police chief said: "We repelled the attack...but they burnt two vehicles."

This attack is the worst ever case of foreigners being kidnapped in the north of Nigeria. Kidnappings for ransom occasionally occur in the south, especially in the areas that support the country's oil industry. Violence in the north has largely been of the nature of attacking churches and police stations, and kidnapping locals. No one has yet taken responsibility for yesterday's raid, but security experts believe one of northern Nigeria's Islamist groups is behind it. The Al Qaeda splinter group Ansaru has been active in recent months. The larger group Boko Haram, which means 'Western education is forbidden,' has been the most active in the area. It is reportedly responsible for hundreds of deaths, and church bombings.

Sources: Nigeria Guardian / Reuters

Writing

Foreign national should stay away from countries with a history of attacks on non-residents. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

armed attackers / foreign workers / security guard / kidnapped workers / police station / worst ever / ransom / oil industry / taken responsibility / security experts / education

True / False

- a) Eight foreign workers were kidnapped at an oil company in Nigeria. T / F
- b) Those kidnapped include a woman and a girl. T / F
- c) The kidnapping took place in broad daylight. T / F
- d) The gunmen attacked an army barracks before the kidnapping. T / F
- e) This attack is the worst northern Nigeria has ever seen. T / F
- f) The attackers want a ransom and oil from the south of the country. T / F
- g) Violence in the north does not usually involve foreigners. T / F
- h) One of the biggest groups in the area opposes western education. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. kidnapped | a. incident |
| 2. foreign | b. fought off |
| 3. assailants | c. particularly |
| 4. occurred | d. abducted |
| 5. repelled | e. outlawed |
| 6. case | f. attackers |
| 7. especially | g. specialists |
| 8. raid | h. overseas |
| 9. experts | i. happened |
| 10. forbidden | j. attack |

Discussion – Student A

- a) Why do Islamist groups kidnap people when they know their aims will never be met?
- b) What would you do if you knew someone was about to kidnap you?
- c) How would you cope mentally during a kidnapping?
- d) Would you try to escape if you were kidnapped or would you be too afraid?
- e) What would you think about if you were held captive?
- f) Will Islamist groups ever stop trying to get what they want?
- g) What do you think the situation in North Africa will be like in five years?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the kidnappers?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. armed | a. the attack |
| 2. residential | b. be from Britain |
| 3. prevent the assailants | c. ransom |
| 4. believed to | d. compound |
| 5. We repelled | e. ever case |
| 6. the worst | f. group |
| 7. Kidnappings for | g. attackers |
| 8. No one has yet | h. for hundreds of deaths |
| 9. splinter | i. from entering the camp |
| 10. responsible | j. taken responsibility |

Discussion – Student B

- What springs to mind when you hear the word 'kidnap'?
- What do you think of kidnappings?
- Do most kidnappings end with the abductee(s) being freed?
- What kinds of kidnappings are there?
- Are kidnappings common in your country?
- Should foreign workers be better protected in unstable countries?
- Would you work in an area that has a history of insurgency?
- Will the kidnappings damage Nigeria in any way?

Spelling

- eight grofeni workers
- eirialtsden compound
- prevent the asanasistl from entering
- the attack rcoduecr at 2:15am
- We dleeerpl the attack
- two ievslehc
- syaccoinolal occur
- the country's oil tnduiysr
- oenilcev in the north
- security xterpes
- Western education is drdnfieob
- church sbbnogim.

Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. h	3. f	4. i	5. b
6. a	7. c	8. j	9. g	10. e

Role Play

A: You are an expert at freeing hostages. Tell your partner your ideas to get these abductees released.

B: You think A does not know what (s)he is talking about. Tell him/her that his/her ideas will never work.

A divorced husband kidnaps his child and says he will never return him to his mother.

A billionaire is kidnapped for money. The kidnappers want half a billion dollars.

The U.S. President is kidnapped for secret reasons.

An oil executive is kidnapped by environmentalists. They want the oil company to close all their oil fields.

Soldiers kidnapped for prisoner release

Speaking -Kidnapped

What would you think about most if you were kidnapped? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| • family | • good food |
| • being hurt | • why me? |
| • freedom | • death |
| • escaping | • being rescued |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.