# Sokoto: Bandits, vigilantes killed in gun duel

**From Abubakar Auwal & Salim Ashir Mahuta, Sokoto**

Three bandits and two vigilantes were killed during a gun duel following an attack on Bargaja village, Isa Local Government Area of Sokoto State, in the early hours of Sunday.

Sources said the bandits entered the village around 1:30 a.m., using an outskirt route.

A community leader, speaking on condition of anonymity, said some attackers hid in trees near the village cemetery, while others sneaked into a house on the outskirts, confronting vigilantes guarding the area.

One vigilante was killed early in the encounter before the others returned fire, reportedly killing three bandits.

The attackers later pursued another vigilante hiding in a house, killing him. The two vigilantes who died were identified as Umar Ibrahim and Abubakar Abdullahi.

Residents said the bandits used a donkey to carry away their dead and abandoned their motorcycles some distance away to avoid detection.

The incident caused panic, with some residents attempting to flee. Community leaders, including the village head and security commander, intervened to calm people.

Residents lamented the lack of a permanent security presence despite repeated attacks and urged the state and federal governments to deploy security personnel.

The Sokoto State Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Ahmad Rufai, confirmed the police are aware of the attack and casualties recorded.