

# 3 Bandits kill soldier, five others in Plateau

Isaac Shobayo | Jos

A soldier and five others were, on Monday, reportedly killed by suspected bandits in Zurak community, Bashar district of Wase Local Government Area of Plateau State.

The bandits, who were in large numbers, reportedly stormed the community at about 4pm, shooting at random, before being confronted by some soldiers deployed in the area.

According to a community source in the community, prior to the attack on Zurak, the bandits attacked Sabon Gari, where they burnt several houses and carted away valuable properties.

A youth leader in Wase, Shapi'i Sambo, said one of the security personnel, who fought valiantly to repel the attack was killed, adding that the soldier's body was moved to Jos, the state capital, on Tuesday morning.

Another Zurak community resident who escaped the attack, Jibril Isa, said the bandits launched simultaneous attacks on the two commu-

nities in large numbers, making it difficult for the security men to repel them on time.

He said: "The incident occurred around 4pm and the assailants first attacked the military checkpoint situated in Sabon Gari, before moving to the commercial area of the community, where they looted almost all the shops.

"After attacking Sabon Gari, the bandits moved to Zurak, where they first attacked the military checkpoint. During the attack in Zurak, they killed five residents and one soldier"

Jibrin, who described the attack as devastating, stated that Zurak community is currently deserted as residents have fled to neighbouring villages for fear of future attacks.

The Media Information Officer, Operation Enduring Peace, Captain JA John, when contacted on the development, said he would investigate the incident.

He was, however, yet to do so as of the time of filing in this report.