

There is so much hardship...ous acts," he explained.

# Bandits kill 33, set police stations ablaze in fresh Niger attack

By Aliyu Hamagam | Minna

**BANDITS** have killed 33 people in a renewed assault on Konkoso, Tungan Makeri, and Pisa communities, while two police stations were set ablaze during the attack.

The latest onslaught is part of the sustained wave of violence that has plagued communities in the Borgu Local Government Area of Niger State.

The assailants, reportedly numbering about 200, stormed Tungan Makeri in the early hours, killing six people before moving to neighbouring Konkoso, where 26 were gruesomely murdered. Another person was also shot dead in Pisa.

The attackers set fire to two police stations in Konkoso and Pisa communities.

Sunday Tribune learned that the affected communities have now been deserted, as survivors fled into nearby mountains and bushes for safety.

A resident of one of the communities, who asked to remain anonymous, disclosed that the attackers, who rode on motorcycles, invaded the villages, opening fire on some residents while others had their throats slit.

He said it remained unclear whether those whose throats were slit were killed while attempting to resist the invaders or were victims of random gunfire.

The source further lamented that, despite distress calls, security operatives did not arrive, leaving the communities at the mercy of the armed men.

He said, "Tunga-Makeri was their first target, where six people were killed before moving over to the neighbouring village of Konkoso, where 26 were killed and one other person also killed in Pisa. Two police stations were set ablaze in Konkoso and Pisa."

Contacted, the spokesman of the state police command, SP Wasiu Abiodun, confirmed the incident, saying six people were killed during the attack.

"Report received indicated that at about 3 a.m., suspected bandits invaded Tunga-Makeri village via Shafachi district, Borgu LGA, and during the attack, six persons lost their lives. Some houses were also set ablaze. Meanwhile, joint security teams have been mobilised to the scene for assessment, and efforts to rescue the victims are ongoing," he said.