

Mayhem in Niger as bandits kill 26, burn police station, houses

15th February 2026



•Scores injured as Communities deserted

From John Adams Minna

With barely one week after both political and traditional leaders in Borgu kingdom sent Save our Soul (SOS) appeal to the federal government for the establishment of a Military base in the area to curb incessant attacks from terrorists and other Hoodlums, armed men suspected to be bandits have carried out another violent attack on some communities in the area.

In the last attack which took place in the early hours of Saturday in Tungan Makeri and Nkpaso communities all in Konkoso ward in Borgu local government area of the state, saw the gunmen killing 26 people. The gunmen slaughtered seven of the victims.

A police station at Konkoso was burnt down by the invaders after the policemen on duty took to their heels. Although there was no report of any weapon taken away by the Gunmen who practically out numbered the policemen.

According to a local source in the affected communities, houses were razed down and shops looted as the people fled in different directions for safety.

It was gathered that the victims had their hands tied behind before being slaughtered by the Gunmen.

The first place of call by the gunmen, which our source said numbered well over 200, was in Nkpaso community where they were said to have moved from house to house before carrying out their heinous crimes against the people.

Our source further disclosed that the latest attack is not unconnected with the appeal by the communities' leaders seeking the intervention of the federal government with the deployment of troops to the area.

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“They told the people that the government cannot protect them, and that the people are wasting their time. They said the people should find a way of making peace with them rather than seeking protection from the government.

“The gunmen then decided to carry out the attack to let the people know that the government cannot come and save them. They also promised more attacks.

“Those killed are those suspected to be behind the calls for government protection. They did it as a warning to others”, our source added.

It could be recalled that last week, both political and traditional leaders across Communities in Borgu Kingdom appealed to the federal government to urgently deploy security agents to the troubled communities in Agwara and Borgu Local Government Areas of the State.

They specifically urged the federal government to as a matter of urgency establish a military base in the area to curtail the onslaught by the gunmen, saying that the current security situation in the

area is not only worrisome but scary.

The leaders, while addressing Journalists, said the entire Borgu kingdom, comprising Borgu and Agwara local government areas, is under siege from bandits and other Hoodlums that have made lives miserable for the people in the three months alone.

The Chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Niger State chapter who is also the Catholic Bishop of Kontagora Diocese, Most Rev. Dr. Bulus Dauwa Yohanna, flanked by other community leaders of Borgu emirate, Pointed out that the plight of the affected communities is better imagined than experienced as the people now lived like refugees in the own communities.

Meanwhile as at the time of filing this report, neither the government nor the police command has issued any statement on the latest attack.

