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Robbers kill, cremate 15 in Zamfara

Written by Lawan Danjuma Adamu, Gusau Friday, 27 January 2012
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A suspected armed robbery gang yesterday morning attacked a convoy of businessmen near Shamushele Village in Birnin Magaji Local Government Area of Zamfara State, killing 15 persons before burning their corpses, Daily Trust has learnt.

The daylight attack, according to eyewitnesses, occurred when vehicles conveying the traders who were on their way to Batsari Market in neighbouring Katsina State were ambushed by a group of heavily armed hoodlums, numbering about 100.

Witnesses said the robbers, who had laid siege on the highway since Wednesday, first opened fire at the vehicles before proceeding to slaughter some of the occupants. They equally set ablaze the remains of the victims.

Daily Trust however, gathered that seven persons have survived the carnage with fatal injuries.

Most of the victims of the attack were businessmen from Birnin Magaji Local Government Area, travelling to Batsari Local Government in Katsina State.

Confirming the attack to newsmen on phone, the Sole Administrator of Birnin Magaji, Alhaji Ibrahim Idris, said the corpses had been deposited at the Birnin Magaji General Hospital.

The local council boss further disclosed that the remains were retrieved by a team comprising of the state Commissioner of Information, Alhaji Ibrahim Muhammad Birnin Magaji, Police Commissioner Tambari Yabo Muhammad and the Emir of Birnin Magaji, Alhaji Ahmad Umar Usman.

Idris called on the Federal Government to deploy helicopter for aerial surveillance of the forests in the area, with a view to flushing out the bandits.

Attempts to speak to the state police commissioner were not successful, as his mobile phone numbers could not be reached.

Daily Trust gathered that the burial for the victims has been scheduled for today at Birnin Magaji town. The people in the area were said to be in a deep state of mourning.

Yesterday's attack brought the number of persons recently killed by armed robbers to more than two dozens. On Monday, a retired soldier was killed when suspected armed robbers fired indiscriminately at the vehicle he was travelling in near Tsafe local government, while a customs officer in charge of the state was shot in the thigh.

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