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GUNMEN KILL 20 IN ZAMFARA VILLAGES



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Armed bandits at the week end invaded three villages in Maru LGA of Zamfara State, killing at least 20 people. The attacks on Tungar Rakumi, Mallamawa and Kangarawa villages were carried out at about midnight in what observers consider as reprisals on the communities after three suspected cattle rustlers were killed in a mob action in Birnin Magaji LGA last week.

Spokesman of the state police command DSP Lawal Abdullahi who confirmed the attacks to Daily Trust said 12 people were killed in Tungar Rakumi village while four were killed in Mallamawa and Kangarawa villages respectively.

He said the bandits also suffered losses in an encounter with security operatives stationed in the area, adding that one policeman died during the attack.

"The attackers numbering about 150 came on about 50 motorbikes carrying AK 47 rifles and fired at residents, and our men attached to the area engaged them in a fierce gun battle before we eventually overpowered them and chased them out", he said. He pointed out that despite the inaccessibility of the area due to bad roads, surveillance and patrol have been intensified in the area with to get to the hoodlums in the forest they would soon be arrested. Similar attacks on Kizara village in Tsafe LGA in June last year left more than 50 people dead.

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