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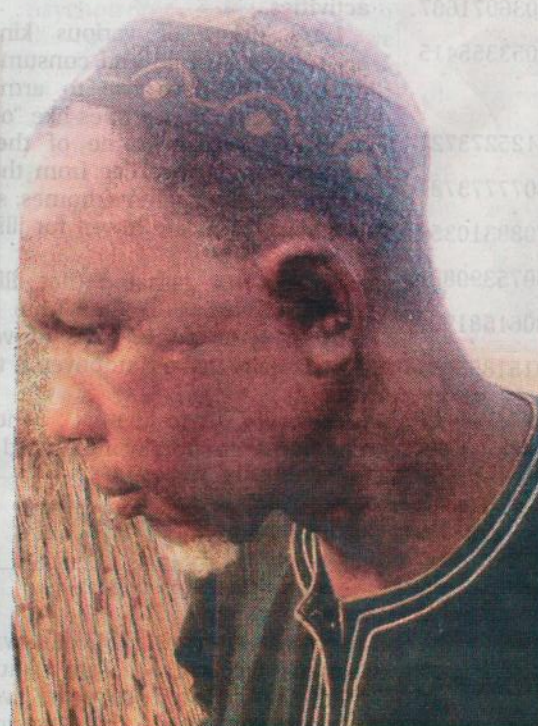
# Residents killed, women gang-raped as rustlers terrorise Zamfara

Cattle rustling and armed banditry in Zamfara villages have assumed alarming proportion. People are killed, women gang-raped and cattle stolen almost on a daily basis. The visibly shaken residents recount their ordeals to *Daily Trust*.

From Shehu Umar, Gusau

“Bullets slightly bruised my neck and hit a cow behind me. I fell down and felt hit by more bullets. The next thing is I found myself on a hospital bed. I had to undergo surgery before some bullets were removed from my body and thank God I’m recovering as you can see. That was how I escaped death. I didn’t know how that miracle happened, I didn’t realise the gravity of the danger of pursuing armed bandits until I found myself in such a situation.”

Malam Aliyu of Mashema village felt he had no option than to give the armed bandits a hot chase not minding the risk involved in that decision. It was an attempt to recover his stolen



Some of them were seen gathering stalks and bamboo sticks to build shelters from the harmattan cold.

A refugee, Wadatau Bello, told our reporter that he relocated from Mashema village after many people were killed by gunmen in November last year.

The village head of Wanke Gabas, Malam Ibrahim Tudu, told *Daily Trust* that the situation is getting out of hand. He said they have received hundreds of refugees from the troubled villages and shelter is one of their main problems for now.

He called on the authorities to come to their rescue through deployment of police and soldiers to combat the hoodlums and providing relief to the victims before the situation degenerates.

Similarly, the Commissioner of Police, Mr Olufemi David Ogunbayade, said about 15,000 cows including sheep, goats and