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Gunmen kill 5 policemen in Niger

By Ahmed Tahir Ajobe, Minna | Publish Date: Aug 10 2016 5:00AM

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The Niger State Police Command has said it lost five men to unknown gunmen over the weekend in two locations in the state.

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The command public relation officer DSP Bala Elkana who addressed newsmen yesterday in Minna, said three of the officers were attached to the Dikko police station in Gurara local government area of the state, while two others were in an operation in Minna town.



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He said the gunmen who operated on motorcycles made away with four AK 47 and a service rifle that the deceased officers were bearing during the attacks.

He said the Dikko incident happened on Saturday, while that of Minna town took place the following day, Sunday.

The command said it was disturbed by the increasing number of firearms in wrong hands, noting that a special operation aimed at mopping up such arms had been launched.

The command revealed that criminal elements fleeing the military operation in Zamfara were entering the state and posing security threats.

It said Special Forces had been deployed to hot spots across the state for the purpose, while appealing to the public not to panic because of the large numbers of its personnel at different locations.

The command which also cleared the air on its role in last Thursday clash between the military and villagers, maintained that it was not initially involved in the bloody operation.

It said its men moved in after repeated distress calls from the villagers that their communities were under attack by armed men in military uniforms.

"It was purely a military operation but we moved in latter and discovered that those the villagers were referring to were soldiers," the command said.

It said the arms recovered by its men during the search and rescue operation were not from the villagers but in the bushes where some wounded soldiers escaped to and later died.



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