

112 die in attacks on Zamfara villages

From Shehu Umar, Gusau

The death toll from last Friday's attacks on about eight villages in Maru, Shinkafi and Maradun local government areas of Zamfara state has hit 112.

Last Friday, Tubali, Zazzaka, Sabon Gida, Dolen Moriki, Kaya, Tsibiri and Yankamoji villages in the local

government areas suffered series of deadly attacks by the suspected bandits and cattle rustlers, and *Daily Trust* had by its Saturday report put the number of those who died at 35.

Before the Friday attacks, more than 40 persons suspected to be traders were abducted by the armed bandits when they were intercepted on

their way to a market.

The armed bandits had demanded cows in exchange for the abducted persons. However, some family sources revealed that the hoodlums had placed ransom on each of the abducted persons.

A resident of the neighbouring Galadi village who craved anonymity, said yesterday that in Tubali

community alone, about 46 people were killed in the Friday attacks.

Another resident Alhaji Hamisu Musa, said the figures could be higher than what was reported earlier because many of the residents were shot in the forest and in their farms.

"They caught many farmers unawares in their farms. It may take days to recover the

corpses of these people," he added.

When contacted, the spokesman of the state police command DSP Muhammad Shehu said he could not give the figures of the dead following the attacks.

"Give me some time, I will get back to you tomorrow (Monday) When I finish collating the figures," he said.

Riot averted at Kwara prison
over death of inmates



Gunmen abduct
college principal

From Victor Edozie, P/Harcourt