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Banditry: Sokoto holds mass burial for 32 victims

By Rakiya A. Muhammad & Abubakar Auwal, Sokoto | Publish Date: Jul 12 2018 5:00AM

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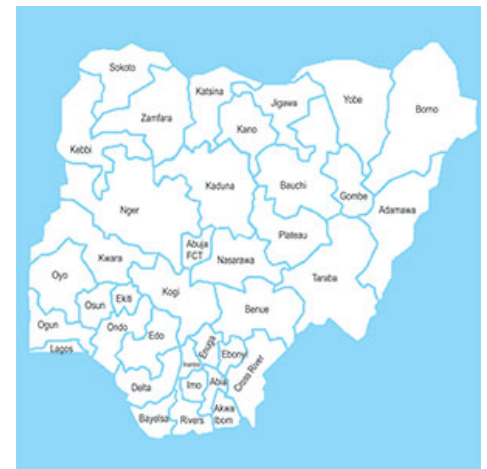
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A mass burial was yesterday held at Tabbannin Gera village Sokoto for 32 people killed by suspected bandits at four villages in Sokoto and Zamfara States.

Governor Aminu Waziri Tambuwal Governor assured families of the victims taking refuge at Rabah that government would take speedy measures to address the problem and ensure their return to their villages.

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The state government had also dispatched relief materials worth millions of naira to the victims.

The bandits were said to have invaded the villages with over 100 motorcycles at about 3pm shooting people on sight.

The affected villages were Alliki, Birwanga, Tabbannin Gera in Rabah Local Government Area of Sokoto State and Kozi village in Maradun Local Government Area of Zamfara State.

Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) Sokoto command, Cordelia Nwawe, said that the Commissioner of Police, Murtala Mani, had moved

to Rabah to assess the situation and ascertain how many people were affected.

Alhaji Muhammadu Bello Aliyu, the Sarkin Rafin Dan Tassakko, a village head in Goronyo, said hundreds of people had been displaced by the attack.

“As I am talking to you, we have significant number of them who fled to our community, majority of them women and children,” he said

According to him, the attackers came on over 100 motorcycles with sophisticated weapons and being killing the villagers on sight.

Among the people killed by the attackers were the village head of Tabanni Gera and their chief Imam as well as women and children.

“They are not the usual bandits who used to attack us, kidnap people or rustle animals. Their mission wa to kill anybody on sight,” he said.

Aliyu said that over 200 farmers had abandoned their farms this year in his village because of a threat by bandits.

According to him, over 70 people were kidnapped by bandits in the 17 villages under his district in the last two years.

He added that they had paid about N100 million as ransom within the period under review.



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