

74 feared killed as bandits attack Sokoto communities

From Olakunle Maruf,
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ABOUT 74 people from Sabon Birmi Local Government Area of Sokoto State were feared killed when bandits attacked four villages in the council area on Wednesday evening.

A resident of the area who spoke with the **Nigerian Tribune** on telephone said

no fewer than 74 people lost their lives during the attacks on Garki, Dan Aduwa, Kuzari and Katuma communities.

The source said: "The bandits, estimated to be in their hundreds, stormed the villages on motorcycles and started shooting sporadically, resulting in the killing of about 74 people."

In a press briefing, the state police command con-

firmed the attacks, adding that the Commissioner of Police, Ibrahim Sani Kaoje, had ordered the deployment of more mobile policemen to the area.

Also, in his reaction to the attack, the state governor, Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, commiserated with those who lost their loved ones.

According to a condolence letter the governor person-

ally signed, he reassured the people of the community that his administration would do everything possible to bring peace to the area.

Meanwhile, President Muhammadu Buhari has directed the military to embark on a fierce operation to dislodge bandits terrorising the people in Sokoto State.

A statement issued by

Senior Special Assistant to the President (Media and Publicity), Garba Shehu, in Abuja, quoted President Buhari as saying: "As the world and Nigeria battle coronavirus pandemic, it is tragic and unfortunate that bandits have remained active in parts of the country, killing innocent people and throwing families into despair.

"We will not abandon you

to your fate because we are determined to bring these mass murderers to their knees and crush them totally."

The President noted that a major military operation code named "Operation Accord" was launched by the military, targeting the bandits that had been tormenting North-West and North Central states.

How bandits killed over 70 in Sokoto

From Rakiya A. Muhammad (Sokoto) & Muideen Olaniyi

Residents of some communities in Sabon Birni Local Government Area of Sokoto state yesterday recounted how bandits killed more than 70 inhabitants.

The attack was launched around 5pm Wednesday but details only reached the state

How the latest

capital in the early hours of yesterday.

The latest attacks in Sokoto are continuation of relentless onslaught on innocent citizens in the states in parts of the north western parts of Nigeria.

The affected villages include Garki, Dan Aduwa, Kuzari, Katuma and Masawa.

Besides the over 70 people killed, dozens of other sustained

injuries while properties worth millions of naira have been destroyed. Locals said economic activities have been crippled as the attackers whose real motive remains elusive continued to kill and maim.

During the Wednesday siege, locals said the bandits rode on over 150 motorcycles each carrying at least two assailants with some of them carrying

AK47.

"These people did not take anything...They just came and started shooting people," one of the residents, Muhammad Rabi'u Abubakar, lamented.

"Look at the casualty, as I am talking to you, we are seeing dead bodies, more than 74," he said.

Some residents of Sabon Birni, the local government

headquarters said they heard the gunshots from their ends.

The attack on Wednesday followed an earlier one on Sunday, which prompted Governor Aminu Waziri Tambuwal to visit the local government area.

President Muhammadu Buhari yesterday directed security operatives to go to Sokoto and restore order.