

Troops kill 80 abductors of Kebbi students

● 3 students killed, 7 soldiers injured

From Aliyu M. Hamagam, Birnin Kebbi

The head of vigilante in Zuru Emirate, John Mani, yesterday said at least 80 of the bandits that abducted the students of Federal Government College (FGC), Birnin Yauri, had been killed by security forces.

Bandits numbering over 150 were reported to have broken into the school on Thursday and made away with a yet to be ascertained number of students.

Mani, who made the

disclosure while speaking with our correspondent on phone, said the bandits were killed in a gun duel while the security operatives, who were carrying out operations to rescue the abducted students and teachers.

He said the bandits were killed at Insen forest in Sakaba Local Government Area of the state between Thursday and Friday.

He said, "Over 80 of the bandits were killed in a fire exchange; we have counted their corpses. The bandits were killed in Insen forest in Sakaba. They were killed in an effort to secure the release of the abducted students," he said.

Similarly, a top security source said 67 bandits had been killed during the ongoing joint security operations by troops in the area.

The source also said three students, comprising two females and a male, were killed during the encounter while seven soldiers were injured.

Meanwhile, Senator Bala Ibn Na'Allah, who is representing Kebbi South in the National Assembly, has called on the military to sustain its onslaught against the bandits terrorising Yauri and Zuru emirates.

He commended the federal government, Kebbi State governor,

security agents and other local vigilante groups that aided in the onslaught in his senatorial district.

"I assure all security agents that Zuru and Yauri community will cooperate fully and render all the necessary support in the task of hunting down the bandits and other criminal elements in our society," he said.

Bagudu mobilises hunters to battle banditry

Meanwhile, the Kebbi State governor, Abubakar Atiku Bagudu, has mobilised local hunters to checkmate the spate of insecurity in the state.

Bagudu extended invitation to all the local hunters in the state yesterday when he received their leadership who visited him over the Thursday's abduction of students in the state.

He promised to give them the needed support to enable them win the battle against the criminal elements.

In another development, the chairman of the Nigeria Governors Forum and governor of Ekiti State, Kayode Fayemi, visited the state yesterday in solidarity with the government and people of Kebbi State over the recent abduction of students.