

# 9 killed, many flee as vigilantes attack settlements in Niger

**From Abubakar Akote,  
Minna**

1 No fewer than nine persons have been reported killed with eight others missing as gunmen suspected to be vigilantes from Maza-Kuka attacked Adogon Mallam, Gawun and other surrounding settlements in Mashegu Local Government Area of Niger State between Wednesday and Sunday.

It was gathered that the vigilantes invaded the settlements on suspicion that they were collaborators in the October 25 early morning attack on a mosque in Maza-Kuka by bandits in which no fewer than 18 worshippers were killed with 13 others kidnapped.

2 Daily Trust recalls that on October 25, the village head of Adogon-Mallam, and his younger brother were killed

four hours after the attack in Maza-Kuka.

A resident of Gawun village, Shehu Mohammadu, told our correspondent that, "Vigilantes came to our village and burnt our rooms.... We had to run away. My younger brother's wife, Hawawu and her 10-month-old-baby were killed. They also killed my younger brother's 3-year-old son and his 10-year-old daughter. My younger brother, Aliyu was also killed. They also killed my son, Mohammadu. He is 30 years old. I lost 7 members of my family. I had to run; they would have killed me too."

Mohammed said his 51 cattle, 63 rams, 53 goats and a motorcycle were taken away while his younger brothers, Abdullahi and Ali lost their 38 goats during the attacks.

Mohammed, who decried the lack of security presence in spite of the renewed manslaughter on their settlements, called on Governor Abubakar Sani Bello to intervene.

Another eyewitness, who said he was also taking refuge outside the state, Alhaji Muhammadu Marike, said some of their people had fled to Kwara, Kano and Kaduna states due to renewed attacks.

Abubakar Saidu, the eldest son to the deceased village head, called on the governor to intervene to enable their people to return to their homes.

When contacted, the Niger State Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Wasiu Abiodun, said the command had launched a manhunt for those behind the attack.