

How NSCDC commander, others were bombed in Niger State

From Abubakar Akote, Minna

Residents of Gpekure, Makuba and Galapai communities in Shiroro Local Government Area of Niger State are still in shock over the killing of some civilians and security operatives.

Daily Trust had reported how lives were lost when operatives who were on a rescue mission ran into explosives planted by insurgents/bandits.

Mohammed Ibrahim, a Civil Defence Commander, was among those killed in the tragic incident.

Commenting on the attack, Emmanuel Umar, Niger State Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, said, "We lost four of our security personnel who were in our security vehicle that ran on the bomb.

"Other security agencies and I are yet to get to the point where the explosion took place because

we are waiting for the bomb experts to inform us of the safety of the areas before we can go there."

The Police Public Relations Officer in Niger, Wasiu Abiodun, gave details of the attack in a statement.

"The Niger State Police Command wishes to confirm that on 21/02/2022 at about 0100hrs, armed bandits/terrorists attacked Galadima-Kogo village, Shiroro LGA, killing about six persons and setting some houses ablaze.

"However, joint tactical teams comprising the military, police, NSCDC and vigilantes were mobilised to the scene, and unfortunately, while on their way, a truck with NSCDC personnel ran into an Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) planted by bandits/insurgents along the routes and exploded.

"Consequently, four NSCDC personnel lost their lives, while the driver sustained serious injuries and is presently receiving

treatment in a hospital in Minna," Abiodun said.

He said the Commissioner of Police had deployed the Police Explosive Ordnance Unit (EOD) to sweep the area with a view to defusing other IEDs that might have been planted in the area.

Meanwhile, Governor Abubakar Sani Bello of Niger State has described the new dimensions of attacks on communities in the state as worrisome and unacceptable.

The governor, in a statement issued by his Chief Press Secretary, Mary Noel-Berje, re-iterated his commitment to take every necessary step to assuage the sufferings of the affected people by providing humanitarian interventions.

Bello directed all security agencies to mobilise their personnel and step up their activities to tame the nefarious activities of the terrorists.

He commiserated with the entire people of Shiroro

LGA, particularly the affected communities and the security agencies for the loss of some of their personnel.

The governor, who pledged his support to the security agencies within the available resources so as to win the war against the terrorists, prayed God to grant quick recovery to those injured and repose of the souls of those killed.

The president of a Minna-based civil society organisation, the Blue Resolution Initiative, Mohammed Danjuma Abubakar, has called on the government to adopt new strategies in the fight against banditry and insurgency in the state.

Niger is one of the states being affected by the high wave of insecurity in the country.

Boko Haram insurgents have reportedly taken over some communities in the state, hoisting their flag.

Different communities in Niger are also under siege.