Bandits kill 4 children, abduct 16 others in fresh Niger attack

From Abubakar Akote, Minna

Five persons including four children between the ages of 1 and 5 have been reportedly killed in Fapo, a village in Lapai Local Government Area of Niger State.

Daily Trust gathered that the attackers who stormed the village between 1am and 2am on Monday shot the four children on a mattress

on which they were sleeping in their paternal grandmother's room.

Multiple sources told our correspondent that one man who was also shot during the attack died Monday morning while 16 others were kidnapped.

Villagers, who sustained severe gunshot injuries, including a woman whose husband was abducted, were taken to Gulu General Hospital and Lapai General Hospital for treatment.

Residents who believed the attack was a reprisal told our correspondent that the bandits had recently written to the neighbouring community, Efu-Gwari-Nasarawa, of their plan to attack them due to the recent onslaught against them by vigilantes.

"The community they wrote to

had made adequate preparation for them. But they chose to attack the neighbouring community.

In Zago now, you can't find a single person there and even some communities that have not been attacked, everyone is fleeing. Nobody can wait until he's attacked. We've asked women to flee," a villager said

This attack came less than one

week when bandits numbering over 500 reportedly attacked four communities of Ebbo, Zago, Yaba and Lafiya Zago where a vigilante was killed. When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer in Niger State, DSP Wasiu Abiodun, confirmed the attack.

He said police tactical team had been deployed in the area to rescue the abducted villagers.