20 people killed, many kidnapped in Zamfara community over missing rifles

● 15 bandits killed as vigilantes repel attack

From Shehu Umar, Gusau

t least 20 people in Randa community in Maru LGA of Zamfara State were killed and a majority of the male population kidnapped after terrorists loyal to notorious kingpin, Lawalli Damina, attacked over missing rifles.

The residents and a traditional leader told PREMIUM TIMES that Damina's men attacked Randa after

its residents denied knowledge of the whereabouts of his two rifles that went missing in the community.

The rifles were said to belong to two fighters of the Damina who were killed by another gang member after they clashed over a girl.

Randa, which is under Mutumji ward of Dansadau Emirate and sits on the edge of Kuyanbana Forest in the ungoverned boundaries with Katsina, Kaduna, Kebbi and Niger states.

In a related development, no fewer than 15 bandits were killed yesterday when vigilantes repelled an attack on Maigoge community in Maru LGA of Zamfara State.

A resident, Aliyu Dansadau, told our reporter that, "The armed men attacked Maigoge, a community located eight kilometres from Dansadau, but met fierce resistance from vigilantes. The vigilantes overpowered them and killed about 15 of them.

"This morning, the armed men reinforced and returned to carry out a retaliatory attack on the community. They came in large numbers and on motorbikes. A military fighter jet arrived shortly afterwards. The jet hovered over Dansadau community and then flew towards Maigoge village. As I'm talking to you now, we have no clear information on what has happened after the coming of the jet."