

Bandits kill vigilantes' commander in Niger

From Abubakar Akote,
Minna

Niger State governor, Abubakar Sani Bello, has confirmed the killing of one of the vigilantes' commanders by bandits in Kumbashi, Mariga Local Government Area of the state.

Bello stated this when he received the Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIG) Zone '7', Aliyu Garba, on a courtesy visit at the Government House, Minna, the state capital.

He revealed that bandits invaded Kumbashi on Wednesday and engaged security personnel, saying he was expecting details of casualty.

Although the governor did not give casualty figures, independent findings by Daily Trust revealed that the commander died alongside four of his men during a gun duel with bandits numbering over 100 on motorbikes.

Bello described the recurring banditry attacks on farming communities in the

state in the last few weeks as "disturbing".

He called for more mobile squads to be posted to sensitive areas to check the movement of bandits from neighbouring states into Niger State.

Earlier, the AIG said his visit was to familiarise with the governor and to see how best the police could collaborate with other security agencies to address insecurity.

Independent findings by Daily Trust revealed that the bandits who invaded Niger communities in Mariga, Rijau and Paikoro LGAs on Wednesday came through a vast forest in Indago, a border community with Birnin-Gwari, Kaduna State.

Our correspondent reports that the village head of Dugge was among those killed while several others were kidnapped and several cattle rustled between Wednesday morning and Thursday night.

Residents called for coordinated security operations among Niger, Zamfara, Kaduna and other states suffering attacks.