

# Bandits kill traditional ruler, rob commissioner, others

**T**RAGEDY struck yesterday morning along Takum/Wukari Road in Taraba State when four persons, including a traditional ruler, were allegedly killed by suspected armed bandits.

Also attacked, but not killed, was the state's Commissioner for Cooperatives and Women Affairs, Mrs. Esther Adi, and a term of journalists.

The Guardian gathered that the chief of Chamba Community, Alhaji Tanko Kaura (Uban Gari Takum), was killed by the hoodlums after dispossessing him of his belongings on

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*From  
Charles Akpeji,  
Jalingo*

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the way from the farm.

The incident, according to an eyewitness, led to the confiscation of valuable goods worth thousands of naira.

Narrating her encounter to *The Guardian*, the commissioner wondered that despite the numerous checkpoints manned by armed military personnel and policemen, the bandits could still carry out their hideous acts without being intercepted.

She disclosed that she

was not only rough-handled by the robbery gangs, but that she was "dehumanised" by the gang whom she said were mainly youths.

According to her, "I thought with my age, they will have regards for me, but to my surprise after carting away my belongings, one of them was trying to play a funny game with me, but thank God he was immediately rebuked by one of his colleagues."

She lamented that youths who ought to be involved in genuine activities for the betterment of the society "are the ones now

harassing and given innocent people sleepless night."

She, therefore, called on the appropriate authority to take drastic action by making the road safe for all and sundry.

All efforts to confirm the incident from the Police PPRO or the commissioner failed.

*The Guardian* was, however, informed by a senior police officer who would not want his name disclosed that the command was aware of the incident and that appropriate measures would be taken by the unit concerned.