

Gunmen kill five in Taraba community

From **Charles Akpeji**, Jalingo,

GUNMEN have again struck in Taraba State killing five persons in Dan-Anicha village of Gasso Local Council.

The bandits, *The Guardian* learnt, stormed the village at 3 a.m. yesterday and kidnapped five persons, whom eyewitnesses claimed they later shot dead in nearby Usaa village.

A resident of the area alleged that, "the gunmen entered our village with two Hilux vans. At the initial stage, we thought they were soldiers or policemen on patrol but we were later proved

wrong by their vicious actions.

"The way and manner they banged into the houses of their victims was suspicious and when we came out we were threatened so we took to our heels."

Filled with emotion and tears rolling down his cheeks, the resident said, "the gunmen took away the five brothers in their Hilux vehicle and a few minutes we started hearing gunshots. It was then we knew that all was not well with us. Four of them were killed in the nearby village of Usaa. And as I am talk-

ing to you now, the fifth person is still missing. We don't know where they dumped his body because it was five of them that were whisked away by these gunmen."

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Ibiang Mbaseki, said the command had been briefed on the sad development but could not confirm whether the suspected gunmen were terrorists.

The police, he said, were investigating the killings and reiterated the command's determination to ensure security of life

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