

Nine bandits killed in Katsina, 23 hostages rescued

From Danjuma Michael, Katsina

A COMBINED operation by security operatives in Katsina State, yesterday morning, reportedly led to the death of six bandits and rescue of 23 abducted persons.

The operation was carried out about 2.30a.m. when bandits with sophisticated weapons attacked Lambo village in Kurfi Council.

Another set of three bandits suspected to be Fulani were given jungle justice on Sunday in Charanchi Council, as they reportedly caught with weapons concealed in the council's market.

Spokesperson for the state's police command, SP Gambo Isah, said the six bandits killed two persons and kidnapped 17 women yesterday. He said they also abducted

six children and rustled several animals before security operatives were alerted.

His words: "On December 29, 2020 about 02.30hrs, bandits numbering over 30, shooting sporadically with AK-47 rifles, attacked Lambo village, Wurma Ward, Kurfi, killed two persons and kidnapped 17 women and six children."

The police, army and air force were alerted and they blocked all possible escape routes, *The Guardian* learnt.

"Consequently, the team laid

siege to the hoodlums between Ummadau and Kwayawa village and engaged them in a fierce gun duel. As a result, six bandits were killed, all the 23 kidnapped victims were rescued, 23 cows, 20 sheep, 31 goats, 12 motorcycles and one G3 rifle were recovered," he added.

IN Charanchi, the three men were beaten and set ablaze by a mob, when they were found to have come into the council's market with

weapons.

But the police said yesterday that only one Fulani man was lynched in the mob action.

However, a source in the area said the men suspected to be Fulani had headed for the cattle section of the Sunday market, probably to rob.

"The men were carrying AK-47 rifles in their flowing gowns, and someone at the market noticed and raised the alarm, which led to the

mob action.

"They also beat the third man, who managed to escape from the mob but later succumbed to his injuries a few metres away from the scene. His lifeless body was later found in a drainage and the mob also set it ablaze," the source submitted.

Following the incident, communities close to the market have been living in fear of possible retaliation by gangsters.

