

Gunmen kill lawyer, 12 others, destroy property in Katsina

From **Danjuma Michael** (Katsina)
and **Charles Akpeji** (Jalingo)

GUNMEN have killed 13 persons, including a lawyer, and injured several others in attacks on communities in Batsari Local Council of Katsina State.

But the police said 11 people were killed and 13 injured during the attack.

The attack, which occurred about 7.00pm on Tuesday, also saw dozens of houses and vehicles set ablaze in at least three communities.

Speculations have it that the casualty figure may be higher.

It was learnt that the attackers, armed with sophisticated weapons, rode to the communities on motorcycles.

In each of the communities

Murder three housewives, others in Taraba

attacked, the gunmen were said to have shot sporadically into the air to register their presence before going from one house to another, looting valuables and harassing residents.

A reliable source said the bandits killed 13 persons. One of the victims, *The Guardian* learnt, was a lawyer, by name Nura Wagine.

The source added some residents, who tried to escape from the onslaught of the gunmen, sustained injuries in the process.

Chairman of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) in the state, Abdulgafar Ahmed, confirmed the victim's demise to newsmen yesterday.

It was learnt that the remains of the 13 victims were recovered and buried yesterday morning according to Islamic rites.

The injured, as at yesterday, were reportedly receiving treatment at clinics in the area.

Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP Gambo Isah, who confirmed the incident, said 11 people were killed and 13 injured.

He said: "Yesterday (Tuesday) about 1915hrs, bandits, in their numbers, shot sporadically with AK-47 rifles, attacked Katoge and Yanturaku quarters of Batsari Local Council, killed 11 persons and injured 13.

"The Katsina State Commissioner of Police (CP)

has deployed the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), in charge of Operations, with additional units of Police Mobile Force (PMF) personnel to the area to beef up security and restore confidence on the affected communities."

IN Taraba, there was tension in Karim Lamido Local Council, as gunmen killed three housewives and others.

The rampaging gunmen, whom *The Guardian* learnt launched separate attacks on Binnari and Jab Jab communities, yesterday, threw the communities into panic.

Some reports had it that the bandits were on reprisal attack for the killing of their gang members by the vigilante in the areas some weeks ago.