

# Police confirm 23 deaths in bandits' attack in Sokoto

From John Akubo, Abuja

**S**OKOTO State Commissioner of Police (CP), Kamaludeen Okunola, has confirmed that about 23 persons were killed during an attack on travellers at Angwan Bawa in Sabon Birni Council of the state.

Okunola, who confirmed the figure, yesterday, shortly after briefing Governor Aminu Tambuwal in a security meeting, described the incident as unfortunate, noting that security personnel have been mobilised to the area to fish out the perpetrators and prevent a recurrence of the attacks.

## As Buhari, Senate, Matawalle condemn killings

Spokesman of the Sokoto Police Command, Sanusi Abubakar, had narrated how bandits attacked a vehicle conveying 24 passengers, which led to the death of no fewer than 18 persons.

He, however, explained that after verifying the figures, it confirmed that the vehicle was conveying 30 passengers, adding that only nine of the occupants survived, while 21 were burnt beyond recognition.

Eyewitnesses told *The Guardian* that the vehicle conveying the travellers was ambushed and shot at

before the bandits set the vehicle and its occupants ablaze.

Reacting to the incident, President Muhammadu Buhari, expressed sadness over what he described as "the gruesome attack on innocent travellers in Sokoto State."

In a statement issued by his Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Femi Adesina, the President said the dastardly act by bandits showed that the evil his administration was confronting required the support and involvement of all

Nigerians.

His words: "I am very distressed at the manner of death visited on the hapless citizens, who were on a legitimate journey."

**A**LSO, the Senate has expressed grief over the killing of travellers, who were burnt to ashes on their way to Gayan, Kaduna State. Citing order 43 of the Senate rules, Ibrahim Gobir (Sokoto East), who drew the lawmakers' attention to the killings, decried the spate of attacks in the North and other parts of the country, which, he said, were alarming and on the increase.