

23 Killed As Trans-border Bandits, Cults Invade Adamawa, C'River

• Three Killed In Calabar Cult War

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Anarchy ruled in Ganye, headquarters of Ganye Local Government Area of Adamawa State, at the weekend when trans-border bandits invaded the popular Ganye International Cattle Market.

At the end of the operation, no fewer than 20 persons, including one policeman and scores of local hunters were killed.

The daredevil robbers stormed the market Saturday afternoon and operated for several hours, leaving many persons dead while scores received gunshot injuries.

An eyewitness told *Daily Independent* in Ganye, a three-hour drive from Yola, that the bandits numbering over 20 stormed the market and shot sporadically and

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indiscriminately into the air, a development that caused stampede not only in the market but Ganye town.

The eyewitness said the market's vigilante group, however, confronted the rampaging bandits whose firepower proved superior.

The eyewitness, who narrowly escaped death, stated that real drama commenced when "the robbers, after the operation, wanted to escape in their waiting vehicles and the entire market men and women, who had overcome their initial fears, mobilised and pursued them. Another round of indiscriminate shooting ensued and within a short period corpses were lying all over the place."

Said he, "Even some people who attempted to block the robbers' vehicles were crushed to death, while the robbers meandered through the market and escaped."

Adamawa State Police Command confirmed the robbery incident on Sunday. The command's spokesperson, Altine Daniel (ASP), stated that about 11 persons were killed on the spot, among them one policeman and one robbery suspect.

She disclosed that the mobile handset of the dead suspect was found, adding that it will assist the police in tracking down the robbers.

Meanwhile, Residents of Calabar, Cross River State capital, are now gripped with fear following the upsurge of cult-related clashes that claimed at least three lives in the last one week.

Many law-abiding citizens in the city are receiving treatment for various injuries inflicted on them by the gangsters.

The most affected area is Calabar South Local Government Area, where youths within the ages of 16 to 30 attack themselves at will with dangerous weapons including sophisticated guns.

The state Police Commissioner, Mr. Emmanuel Ezeozue, who issued a statement to condemn the cult war, said the police have established that the warring gangs enjoy the support and protection of influential people in the state.