

Bloodbath: Gunmen Massacre 50 Villagers In Zamfara

BY ABBA KABARA, Zamfara

About 50 persons were reportedly killed on Saturday night by a group of unknown gunmen suspected to be cattle rustlers.

The armed bandits who besieged Kwanar Dutse community under Maru local government area of Zamfara state also razed half the number of houses in the community.

Witnesses said the gunmen attacked the community while majority of the residents were asleep.

A resident, Salisu Musa, said the bandits came prepared to wreak havoc.

"I rushed to the main entrance and peeped through a hole and spotted many motorcycles, each loaded with three per-

sons armed with heavy rifles" he said.

He said he was horrified when he heard sporadic gunshots followed by horrible wailing sounds of men, women and children being killed in cold blood.

He said the gunmen operated till dawn without the intervention of the military, the police or any other security organ.

Though he could not ascertain the number of casualties, Musa said from his estimation during the burial of the deceased, 'about 50 persons have lost their lives in the attack.'

Another witness, Hamza Bula, said he was awoken by the sounds of gunshots all over the community.

"I quickly realized that our communi-

ty was under house to house attack by insurgents."

He told our reporter that the insurgents moved from house to house in a highly coordinated operation, killing everyone in sight.

It was gathered that the death merchants, at the end of the deadly operation, left unchallenged with an unspecified number of cattle.

Meanwhile, the state police command, spokesperson, DSP Sanusi Amiru, confirmed that only 12 people were killed in the attack, adding that police and military squads have been drafted in the area to restore peace and provide security for the community.