

Police parade killers of colleagues, others in Niger

Posted By: Justina Asishana On: January 25, 2018 In: News, News Update



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The culprits who killed 19 villagers and two policemen in Alawa, Shiroro Local Government Area of Niger State, have been arrested.

Police spokesman Jimoh Moshood, while parading the suspects, said the culprits burnt the police station.

He added that the bandits, who have been terrorising Tegina, Makera, Shiroro in Niger State and Zamfara State, confessed to the crime.

They were arrested by a Special Tactical Squad under Operation Absolute Sanity, set up by the inspector general of Police (IG).

It was gathered that the suspects were once vigilantes before taking to kidnapping.

Gang leader Lawal Kwali (Mai saje) said he was not commissioned to kidnap and kill anybody.

"I killed them just like that. What my boys did, the people they killed, was done under my directive. I was not paid or commissioned for their kidnap or killing, I did it and gave the orders out of my own discretion," he said.

One of the suspects, Zakari Mamman, recalled how a father pleaded that his son be spared, but both were killed on Kwali's order and buried in a school at Alawa.

His words: "I was the one who interviewed the seven people brought from the mosque, and after interviewing them, we marked them for death. My master has those who specialise in slaughtering, I only supervise the killings.

"There was a 12-year-old whose father begged that he be spared, but we slaughtered the boy in his father's presence before killing the father."

A victim identified Lawal Kwali and his team as vigilantes in his community, saying he and his brother were kidnapped on their way from the market and released after his people paid N350,000 ransom.









