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19 killed as bandits invade Sokoto market

No fewer than 19 traders were killed by bandits who raided a weekly market at Unguwan Lalle in Sabon Birni Local Government Area of Sokoto State.

Many other traders were injured in the attack which occurred on Friday.

A good number of the survivors are currently receiving treatment at the General Hospital, Sabon Birni.

The identities of the victims were yet to be ascertained as at the time of filing this report.

Sources said that the attackers invaded the market shortly after all the traders had returned from the Juma'at congregational prayers.

"We not sure if the attack was a reprisal as there have been tension since Yan Sakai, an outlawed vigilance group killed 11 men at Mamande's weekly market on Thursday," a source said.

Unguwan Lalle, a community located along Goronyo-Sabon Birni road, has suffered a series of bandits attacks in recent months.

Five soldiers who were on a rescue mission in the area were ambushed and killed by bandits few months ago.

The state government has blamed the traders for the attack because all rural markets in the eastern part of the state were banned as part of measures to curtail banditry.