

# Bandits on stop-and-search kill five, <sup>(2)</sup> abduct 20 in Plateau

**G**UNMEN have killed five persons and abducted 20 others in Wase council of Plateau State.

The assailants, who were said to be on stop-and-search operation on Sabon Gari-Kampani Road, first killed two men on a motorcycle before gunning down three commuters.

One of the cyclists was a vig-

ilante man, *The Nation* was told.

One Abdullahi Usman, a resident of Wase town, said the vigilante and one other person were ambushed by the bandits.

Usman said more than 20 passengers were kidnapped in

the operation, which happened on Saturday.

He said, "The vigilante and one other person were on a motorcycle from Sabon Gari to Kampani when the bandits attacked them. They killed them and went away with their motorcycle."

"Later, when the villagers were returning after market hours, they were stopped and kidnapped. Three of them were killed. It is unfortunate. This has become the order of the day in this area," he said.

Spokesman of Operation Safe Haven, Major Ishaku Takwa, said he was yet to be briefed on the incident.