

## 2 Bandits kill nine, kidnap 15 women, children in Niger

### Two people kidnapped —Police

Adelowo Oladipo | Minna

TRAGEDY struck in Shiroro Local Government Area of Niger State as nine persons were killed by armed bandits who were also said to have kidnapped no fewer than 15 others.

Among those kidnapped were women and children while several women and young girls were allegedly raped and injured.

*Nigerian Tribune* learnt that 11 of the injured victims were being treated in an undisclosed hospital in the state.

The senator representing Niger East Senatorial District on the platform of the All Progressives Congress (APC) at the national assembly, Senator David Umar, stated this in a press statement issued by him and made available to newsmen in Minna, the state capital, on Monday.

According to Senator Umar, "it is unfortunate that this incident is just one among several other brazen attacks that have been carried out in the area in recent times."

Confirming the development, the state's police image-maker, Muhammad Abubakar, a Deputy Superintendent of Police, said that the police were on the trail of the armed bandits.

He, however, said that based on the information available to him, two persons were kidnapped.

He added that when a combined team of police and operatives of the vigilance group was trying to rescue the two victims somewhere in a village called Gida, the fleeing armed bandits shot one of the victims dead at a close range, leaving behind the other victim who was rescued unhurt.

He said that he was disturbed by the recent upsurge in the criminal activities of the hoodlums in his part of the state, saying: "it is therefore necessary for security agencies to give priority attention to securing lives and properties in these villagers, in order to build on the peace that has prevailed in the areas before