Bandits attack Niger community, kill 60-year old man, abduct 2 others

Adelowo Oladipo | Minna

TRAGEDY struck at the weekend in Ringa community in Rafi Local Government Area of Niger State following the killing of a 60-year-old man, said to be the commander of a local vigilance group in the area, by suspected bandits.

Nigerian Tribune gathered that the bandits, who invaded the community in broad daylight in large numbers on motorcycles, killed the vigilance group commander and abducted two other victims, a 14-year-old girl and a 15-year-old boy, whose identities are yet to be ascertained.

It was also gathered that more that 300 livestock were also rustled by the bandits.

A source, who craved for anonymity, while speaking with the *Nigerian Tribune* on Sunday in Minna, the state capital, said incessant attacks by bandits have turned the area into a ghost town.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), ASP Wasiu Abiodun, confirmed the incident on Sunday while speaking with the *Nigerian Tribune* on phone.

Abiodun said: "Reports reached us from Ringa in Rafi Local Government Area of the state on Saturday, at about 2:00 p.m. that some suspected armed bandits attacked the community and shot dead a 60-year-old man who was believed to be the leader of the vigilance group in the area.

"And in another development, the hoodlums also abducted two persons, a 14-year-old girl and a 15-year-old boy."

The police spokesperson, however, disclosed that a combined patrol team of police and personnel of other security agencies have been dispatched to go after the bandits with a view to rescuing the two abducted persons.