

74 feared killed as bandits attack Sokoto communities

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ABOUT 74 people from Sabon Birmi Local Government Area of Sokoto State were feared killed when bandits attacked four villages in the council area on Wednesday evening.

A resident of the area who spoke with the **Nigerian Tribune** on telephone said

no fewer than 74 people lost their lives during the attacks on Garki, Dan Aduwa, Kuzari and Katuma communities.

The source said: "The bandits, estimated to be in their hundreds, stormed the villages on motorcycles and started shooting sporadically, resulting in the killing of about 74 people."

In a press briefing, the state police command con-

firmed the attacks, adding that the Commissioner of Police, Ibrahim Sani Kaoje, had ordered the deployment of more mobile policemen to the area.

Also, in his reaction to the attack, the state governor, Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, commiserated with those who lost their loved ones.

According to a condolence letter the governor person-

ally signed, he reassured the people of the community that his administration would do everything possible to bring peace to the area.

Meanwhile, President Muhammadu Buhari has directed the military to embark on a fierce operation to dislodge bandits terrorising the people in Sokoto State.

A statement issued by

Senior Special Assistant to the President (Media and Publicity), Garba Shehu, in Abuja, quoted President Buhari as saying: "As the world and Nigeria battle coronavirus pandemic, it is tragic and unfortunate that bandits have remained active in parts of the country, killing innocent people and throwing families into despair.

"We will not abandon you

to your fate because we are determined to bring these mass murderers to their knees and crush them totally."

The President noted that a major military operation code named "Operation Accord" was launched by the military, targeting the bandits that had been tormenting North-West and North Central states.