

# Gunmen kill PDP leader, abduct his 3 daughters in Niger

6 others also killed ·Police arrest village head, 10 others over alleged banditry

Adelowo Oladipo  
with agency report

**A** Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) ward leader in Kampala Village in Bosso Local Government Area of Niger State, identified as Ahmodu Mohammed, has been killed by gunmen suspected to be bandits.

The three daughters of the politician were also abducted by the hoodlums.

Six persons were also killed in Kusasu in the Shiroro Local Government Area of the state on Friday, while several houses were razed by the attackers.

*Nigerian Tribune* gathered that the victims who were killed in Kusasu were four men and two women,

It was gathered that the victims, who had initially fled from their houses, were pursued by the attackers, who hacked some to death, while others were shot.

A source in one of the communities told the *Nigerian Tribune* that a man, alleged to be the driver of the bandits, was nabbed by personnel of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) in Shiroro.

In Kampala, the killing of the PDP ward leader last Thursday came after three attempts on his life by the bandits.

A family member of the deceased informed the *Nigerian Tribune* on phone that Mohammed was killed after several hours of intense gun battle with the bandits.

The family member said: "This is the third time the bandits would attack him. They didn't succeed in the first two attempts because he was very powerful."

However, condemnations have continued to trail the continued onslaught by bandits across the state, especially on Christmas eve and Christmas day.

A former PDP chairman in the state, Mr Tanko Beji, described Mohammed's killing as very unfortunate, adding that people were no longer safe in their homes in parts of the state.

Beji added that neither the government nor security agencies were doing enough to curb the attacks.

Also, the senator representing Niger East senatorial district, Mohammed

Sani Musa, noted that the attacks were a declaration of war against harmless residents of the state.

Senator Musa said: "The horrible event in the last one week in Niger State, and particularly in Niger East senatorial district, has raised tension and uncertainties in my mind and the minds of our people more than ever before.

"A number of people have been killed and over 30 persons have been abducted since the latest attacks, and no fewer than 5,000 persons have been rendered homeless from the over 15 communities in Niger East senatorial district alone.

"What happened in the last one week could be described as hell on earth for the people of Niger East

who can no longer sleep both day and night for fear of the unknown. They have been rendered helpless, even as they continue to starve due to the destruction of their property and inability to engage in what they know how to do best – farming."

Musa, however, warned that a lasting solution must be proffered immediately, saying that "those who are tasked with the responsibility of protecting the lives and property of the citizenry must rise to the occasion."

Meanwhile, the police command in the state has arrested the village head of Tungan-Iliya and 10 other persons over alleged attack on Mashegu Local Government Area of the state.

According to the *News*

*Agency of Nigeria (NAN)*, the police spokesman in the state, Wasiu Abiodun, said in a statement on Sunday in Minna that following intelligence report received on December 25, a police team went on a clearance operation of suspected bandits' hideouts in Tunga-iliya forest.

"The team engaged the suspected bandits in a gun duel and arrested 11 of them, while five others were fatally wounded.

"Among the suspects arrested were the village head of Tunga-iliya and one Summaya Bello, who harbours and gives information to bandits," he stated.

Abiodun said the police had started further investigation into the matter and that the suspects would be charged to court later.

Witnessed