

Police kill 14 bandits, repel attack on station in Benue

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ABOUT 14 bandits were killed in the early hours of Sunday during a gun duel with the police in Katsina-Ala town in Katsina-Ala Local Government Area of Benue State.

According to a source in the area, the bandits had stormed the police station to forcefully set free some of their colleagues arrested and detained there.

The source said the bandits, numbering about 50, on

getting to the station, were engaged in a gun duel by policemen, which resulted in the death of about 14 members of the gang.

The Benue State police command confirmed the invasion of the Katsina Ala station by bandits, and their routing by policemen on duty.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in the state, Catherine Anene, confirmed that the bandits invaded the station at about 1:30 a.m. on Sunday morning, adding that the policemen,

who had early information about the invasion, engaged the bandits and killed 14 among them, while the others escaped with gunshot wounds.

Anene said: "On June 19, five bandits were arrested and detained at Kastina-Ala Police Division for investigation and prosecution.

"On June 20, at about 1:30 a.m., more than 50 other gang members of the detainees mobilised and invaded the police station to rescue their counterparts.

"Officers at the division

who were already at alert engaged them in a gun duel and were able to subdue the bandits.

"Fourteen of them were brought down during the exchange of fire, while several others escaped with gunshot injuries."

Anene said security operatives were currently on the trail of suspected bandits who are now at large.

She advised the people of Kastina-Ala town to remain calm and avail the command with useful information on the bandits.