

## NEWS

# Hunters kill 20 bandits in Niger

Adelowo Oladipo | Minna

**N**O fewer than 20 gunmen suspected to be armed bandits have been reportedly killed by local hunters in the Shiroro Local Government Area of Niger State.

The local hunters were also said to have recovered several livestock allegedly rustled by the bandits.

The incident, which took place last Tuesday was said to have come on the heels of the restoration of armed security operatives to Bassa, Gurmana and Kukoki areas of the local government area by government.

In a statement by the concerned Shiroro Youths made available to Sunday Tribune, on Saturday in Minna, the state capital confirmed the incident.

The release stated that a joint group by Abubakar Yusuf Kokki and Bello Ibrahim co-conveners of the concerned Shiroro Youths declared that, "the group commends the uncommon bravado and gallantry exhibited by the combined team of local hunters and local vigilante groups during head-on confrontation with the hoodlums at around Gurmana forest on Tuesday night which

resulted in many casualties including death on the part of the criminals.

The statement added that the armed bandits had successfully rustled herds of cattle around Gurmana axis of Shiroro Local Government, but luck was against them and, thereafter, they met their nemesis resulting in scores of the criminals being neutralised during the fierce gun duel as they fell to the

superior fire power of the local hunters.

The groups also noted that the herds of rustled cattle were forcefully confiscated from the hoodlums.

Kokki and Bello also in the statement said they have received with extreme joy the news of deployment of well-equipped Joint Security Task Force to insecurity prone areas of the local government area.

"With this welcome development, we are enthusiastically confident that our people who are peaceful and law abiding citizens but unfortunately have come under constant and sustained multiple deadly attacks by heartless, venomous, murderous and hydra headed terrorists will now have a reprieve from the regular vicious attacks by the mauraders," it added.

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