

# Gunmen invade church, abduct three worshippers, kill one in Kogi

## Vigilantes kill 11 bandits, rescue two abductees

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**G**UNMEN, on Sunday morning, attacked the ECWA church by the expressway in Okedayo area, in Kabba, Kogi State, abducted three worshippers and killed one person in the process. *Nigerian Tribune* gathered that the gunmen, armed with AK-47 rifles and numbering about five, invaded

the church at about 8:00 a.m. and shot sporadically.

A source informed *Nigerian Tribune* that some worshippers, during the pandemonium, took cover, while others, in an attempt to escape, were abducted. It was further gathered that the gunmen killed the worshipper who was on his way to the church when he ran into them.

The man who was killed was identified as the dep-

uty chief security officer of a higher institution in the area.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in the state, William Ayah, who confirmed the attack, said his office was yet to be briefed on the number of those abducted or killed.

It will be recalled that last week, gunmen invaded the correctional centre in the town, where some security personnel were killed and

inmates set free.

In another development, members of a vigilante group killed 11 bandits and rescued two abductees at Ottoyi village in Kogi Local Government Area of the state.

The commander of the vigilante group, Alhassan Alhassan, was killed last Tuesday by kidnappers during a gun duel.

However, the vigilante members regrouped and

stormed the forest where they engaged the bandits in a gun duel.

A member of the vigilante group who was part of the operation but preferred anonymity said they collaborated with hunters and stormed the forest on Thursday morning at Ottoyi village, which shares boundary with Niger State.

He said 11 bandits were killed during the gun bat-

tle, while many others escaped with bullet wounds.

He added that they also destroyed two kidnappers' camps and recovered army uniforms, gun magazines, drugs, energy drinks, food-stuff, condiments, as well as rubber boots.

The Commissioner for Solid Minerals in the state, Mr Abubakar Bashir Gegu, who is a native of the area, confirmed the incident to the *Nigerian Tribune*.