

Bandits killed 19, injured 15, Mashaegu LG boss tells Judicial Commission of Inquiry

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THE chairman, Mashaegu Local Government Area of Niger State, Alhassan Isah, has said that 19 people were killed while 15 others were abducted by gunmen suspected to be armed bandits recently in Mazakuka, Kulho, Adogon Mallam and other neighbouring communities within the local government area.

The local government chairman stated this on Tuesday when he appeared before the Judicial Commission of Inquiry set up by the state gov-

ernor, Alhaji Abubakar Sani Bello to look into the killings.

He said that the people were killed inside mosque during the attack by gunmen suspected to be armed bandits.

Isah explained that two victims whose houses were close to the mosque were also killed while 15 others were abducted on the spot.

The council boss noted that one of the kidnapped victims died from shock, adding that no fewer than eight others were killed in the bush by the suspected bandits.

He further informed the

Commission that 11 victims were released after the payment of ransom by their relations to the abductors.

Asked by the counsel representing the Fulani community, Bala Ibrahim Zuru, on whether he visited the Fulani camp to commiserate with them over the incident, Isah answered in the affirmative.

The council chairman further said he did not meet anyone as the camp was deserted at the time of his condolence visit.

Three witnesses, Idris Umar, a farmer, Halidu Yusufu and

Muhammad Usman, who appeared before the probe panel, confirmed the killings and abductions of many people in the various communities and villages of Mashaegu Local Government Area of the state during the attack.

It will be recalled that the Commission of Inquiry was set up by the state government to establish whether the killings were carried out by armed bandits or the Fulani herders who were allegedly on a reprisal attack in the communities.