

# Two bandits killed as gunmen kidnap two construction workers in Niger

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**B**ARELY few weeks after the killing of some Nigerian staff and the abduction of some Chinese nationals at Zungeru Hydro-power Dam in Wushishi Local Government Area of Niger State, two construction workers with Salini Nigeria Ltd have been kidnapped by gunmen suspected to

be armed bandits along the Lambata - Izom highway in Gurara Local Government Area of the state.

However, two of the bandits were killed during a gun duel with a combined team of police, soldiers and local vigilante members.

Eye witness accounts informed the *Nigerian Tribune* that the incident occurred around 4:00 p.m on Monday, thus forcing motorists

and commuters to stop their journeys abruptly and park their vehicles to avoid being shot or abducted by the hoodlums.

Sources who spoke on the condition of anonymity, added that the abducted construction workers were assaulted and had their hands tied behind their backs before being whisked away into the forest by the bandits.

One of the sources, in-

cluding a Minna, Niger State based journalist whose family is based in Kaduna State, added that the gunmen shot into the air for several hours apparently to drive away the people in the community.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) Niger State Police command, DSP Wasiu Abiodun, in a statement, confirmed the incident and explained that the gunmen were engaged by policemen

attached to the command and the military personnel from Zuma Barracks in Suleja in conjunction with some Vigilante members in the area.

He stated: "On 28/02/2022 at about 15: 00hrs, information was received that armed bandits attacked Dajigbe village via Lambata, in Gurara Local Government Area and abducted some victims. Upon the receipt of this informa-

tion, the command mobilised a team of police operatives, military personnel from Zuma barracks, Suleja, and vigilante members to the area.

"The hoodlums were vehemently engaged in a gun battle, and in the process, two bandits were neutralised and four motorcycles were recovered from the bandits, while others escaped into the forest with gunshot injuries," Abiodun added.