

Bandits kill soldiers, policemen in Kebbi

Tambuwal warns marauders to steer clear of Sokoto

**From Muhammad Sabiu
and Olakunle Maroof**

SECRETARY to the Kebbi State Government (SSG), Umar Babale Yauri, has disclosed that scores of soldiers and policemen were killed by suspected bandits in Zuru Emirate on Tuesday.

He said the killing of the security operatives occurred a day after about 65 vigilante members were killed in An-emi village of Sakaba Local Government Area of the state.

He said this while receiving the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Geoffrey Onyeama, who was on a state visit to the state on Wednesday.

Yauri, who briefed the minister on the security situation in the state, said some

soldiers and policemen were killed by the bandits, however, did not give the number of casualties.

According to him, the government is making effort to tackle the increasing insecurity facing the southern part of the state.

"We lost about 65 vigilantes members. And even yesterday (Tuesday), we lost some military officers engaging the bandits.

Responding, the minister said he was in the state on the directive of President Muhammadu Buhari to condole with the government and people of the state over the recent killing of members of vigilante in the state.

The minister noted the president urged the state to stand firm in dealing with the

challenges of banditry.

Meanwhile, Governor Aminu Waziri Tambuwal of Sokoto State on Wednesday warned marauders and their collaborators to steer clear of the state or face the full wrath of the law.

Tambuwal, who cut short an official trip midnight Tuesday to address the reported influx of suspected bandits and their informants into the village of Sabon Garin Liman in Wurno Local Government Area of the state, said his administration, with the assistance of security agencies and the Federal Government, will not allow criminals to roll back the gains being made to stem the tide of their nefarious activities.

He said the state government was not unaware "of

what is happening in this village, where bandits, both from within and outside the country are taking refuge."

"I was out of the state. I left Sokoto yesterday. I had to come back by 1:00 a.m. last night because of certain information that I received that are worrisome and of concern, that have to do with happenings around here and Gundumi forest (in Zamfara State)."

He appealed to the law abiding people in the community to collaborate with the village head, other leaders and security agencies in the state; "particularly those deployed around this area so that we can nip this in the bud and re-establish peace here and in the state in general."