

# Bandits kill DPO, sergeant, vigilante, abduct women in Zamfara

From Attahiru Ahmed and Muhammad Sabiu

**B**ANDITS on Sunday morning attacked Maru police station in Maru, headquarters of Maru Local Government Area of Zamfara State, killing the divisional police officer (DPO), an inspector, a vigilante and abducted some women in the process. The DPO, Kazeem Raheem;

a police inspector, Rabiul Umar, and a vigilante member were said to have confronted the hoodlums in a gun duel when they were hit by bullets.

An indigene of the area, Mallam Mohammed Amadu, told the *Nigerian Tribune* that, "The bandits, in large numbers, stormed the town in the early hours of Sunday. Many of us took to our heels and ran into the bush

to escape the attack, while some women were abducted.

"On getting the information of the attack, the divisional police officer (DPO) of the station, Kazeem Raheem, mobilised his men and some vigilantes to confront the bandits, but they were overpowered by the hoodlums."

He disclosed that "the DPO, a police inspector, Rabiul Umar, and one vigilante,

Shehu Chika, were killed."

The Commissioner of Police in the state, Kolo Yusuf, has confirmed the attack.

In a statement issued by the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP Shehu Mohammed, the commissioner of police condoled with the families of deceased who paid the supreme price during the confrontation with bandits.

Mohammed said: "On March 5, at about 2:00a.m,

bandits in large numbers, armed with sophisticated weapons, attacked Maru Division with intent to destabilise the security architecture of the town in order to easily attack and abduct members of the community.

"However, the DPO and team gallantly put up strong resistance to repel them.

"Unfortunately, the DPO and the above named inspector lost their lives while pro-

tecting the public.

"The commissioner of police has deployed reinforcement to pursue the fleeing hoodlums and arrest them for investigation and prosecution.

"Similarly, the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Operations, DCP Iliyasu Kwarbai, led another police tactical team to the scene for on-the-spot assessment and confidence-building patrol."