

# Bandits kill seven soldiers, 26 civilians, abduct 34 in Zamfara

Attahiru Ahmed | Gusau

**S** EVEN soldiers and 26 civilians were reported to have been killed by bandits at Kangon Garacci village, Dangulbi district in Maru Local Government Area of Zamfara State.

A source told the *Nigerian Tribune* that two soldiers could also not be accounted for as of the time of filing in this report.

A resident of the area, Malam Bello Danguulbi, disclosed to the *Nigerian Tribune* on Thursday in Gusau,

the state capital, that the bandits invaded the community at about 4:00 a.m on Monday.

He said the bandits, under the leadership of Ali Kachalla, attacked the community in an attempt to steal cows.

Danguulbi said the bandits, failing in their mission to cart away the cows as they were chased away by vigilantes, later attacked the village.

He said the bandits attacked soldiers attached to the community, killing seven of them during a gun battle.

The source added that many other people were injured during the attack and are currently receiving medical attention at the Danguulbi Primary Healthcare Centre.

In another development, 23 women and teenage girls were reported to have been kidnapped at Damaga village in Maradun council area of the state.

It was gathered that the bandits stormed Damaga in the early hours of Thursday.

A resident of the area, Malam Musa Dan Damaga, told the *Nigerian Tribune* that the kidnapped victims,

comprising widows and teenage girls, went to look for fire-wood when they were abducted by the bandits.

He disclosed that little children were set free by the bandits, adding, "as I am talking with you, we have discovered that more than 20 of them have been abducted."

Also, hoodlums suspected to be bandits, on Wednesday night, invaded low-cost area of Talata Mafara council area and kidnapped 11 people.

*Nigerian Tribune* gathered

that those kidnapped were working as labourers for a construction company in the area.

It was learnt that the bandits entered Talata Mafara town at about 11:00p.m. and besieged an apartment where the construction workers were staying.

A resident of Talata Mafara told the *Nigerian Tribune* that one of kidnapped victims tried to escape, but was shot by the bandits, adding that the victim is currently receiving medical attention in the hospital.

He said the bandits ini-

tially kidnapped 15 workers, while three escaped and one shot.

The remaining 11 workers are still with the bandits, the source said.

He said the intervention of security operatives in the community made the bandits to leave the town.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Yazid Abubakar, did not answer calls put through to him, but sent message that he was at a meeting and would call back. He was yet to call back as of the time of filing in this report.