

# Troops, vigilantes kill scores of bandits in Niger community

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NIGERIAN Army in collaboration with the vigilante corps members have reportedly neutralized no fewer than 100 suspected bandits around Kundu in Wushishi Local Government Area of Niger State.

It was gathered that the said criminals in the early hours of Wednesday were crossing Kontagora road through their usual route towards Akere axis of Kundu in Wushishi and Mashegu Local Government areas of the state where they allegedly carried out their nefarious crimes of abduction and cattle rustling.

It was further gathered that the military personnel, who had been monitoring the criminals' movements through the route discovered, ambushed them and engaged the hoodlums in a fierce gun battle, leading to substantial casualties among the bandits.

The exact number of neutralized suspected bandits could, however, not be ascertained as of the time of filing this report on.

A resident of Wushishi, Ishaku Musa Kato, said they

heard gun shots on Wednesday morning which lasted for several hours, "and we gathered it was a gun duel between the military and the bandits, and that 100 bandits were killed.

"We commend the gallantry of the military personnel in collaboration with the vigilantes for countering them successfully this time around," the source added.

The Commissioner for Homeland and Security, Retired General Abdullahi Bello Mohammed, confirmed the incident to newsmen in a brief interview, just as he commended the military and vigilantes for the achievements and bravery.

He stated further that the bandits would surely evacuate their injured and corpses of their dead colleagues, such that nobody could confirm the exact number of slain bandits.

He, however, urged security personnel to on the alert because, according to him, criminals do not accept defeat easily; so, troops should be prepared for them in case of attempted reprisal against the innocent civilian population.