

Zamfara villagers mourn death of five soldiers in bandits' attack

Attahiru Ahmed | Gusau

RESIDENTS of Lilo village in Gusau Local Government Area of Zamfara State are mourning the death of five soldiers who lost their lives during an attack by bandits in the area.

Leaders of the community, who were at the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) Press Centre in Gusau on Wednesday, lamented how the deplorable roads in the area aid attack on Lilo village and surrounding communities.

Spokesperson for Lilo village and surrounding communities, Mohammed Mohammed, said about 10 villagers were also killed by the bandits during the encounter on Monday.

"The incident occurred on the Lilo-Gulubba road in Gusau Local Government Area, when troops were escorting traders to Gusau market.

"The bandits ambushed the convoy, killing five soldiers and 10 traders," Mohammed said.

An eyewitness who es-

caped during the attack said, the bandits, who had laid in wait by the roadside, suddenly emerged from hiding and opened fire on the convoy.

"Many passengers fled into the bush, including me, where we laid and pretended as if we had died; the soldiers, however, engaged the bandits in heavy gunfire."

The eyewitness said apart from the five soldiers 10 villagers, several bandits were also killed by the soldiers who fought gallantly during the attack.

He said: "The soldiers fought back bravely. Many of the bandits were killed, but sadly, five soldiers lost their lives. Some passengers were seriously injured, but many of us managed to escape unhurt. When the bandits realised they were losing the fight, they retreated into their hideouts."

When contacted, the Army's Media Information Officer, Captain David Adewusi, said he was not aware of the incident but promised to get back.