

# Cattle rustlers kill one, injure 15 in Niger

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CATTLE rustlers attacked Angwar Umadi Village in Shiroro Local Government Area of Niger State on Sunday killing a teenager and leaving 15 others seriously injured.

The deceased, a 19-year-old senior secondary school student, was reportedly shot at a close range by the armed rustlers when the boy came out to ease himself, not knowing that the bandits were operating.

Fifteen others who were trying to escape the invasion were attacked by the bandits and were said to be receiving treatment at the Arena Dispensary.

One of the villagers, Isaiah Bag, who spoke to our correspondent, said the rustlers, numbering about 40, arrived the village at about 12am on Sunday morning and operated for about one hour.

Baga said 212 cattle and a number of sheep were taken away, including 7 new motorcycles.

The attack, he said, came four days after some armed mobile policemen patrolled the area, saying, “We have reported the latest attack to the authority but we are yet to hear from them”.

This is the 20th attack on communities in Shiroro Local Government Area of the state with over 100 people killed and over 1,500 cattle and sheep stolen.

The last night attack is coming 24hours after the state government expressed the readiness of the security agencies to tackle the upsurge in cases of kidnapping and cattle rustling in some parts of Rafi and Shiroro Local Government Area of the state.

The Commissioner for Information, Culture and Tourism, Mr. Jonathan Vatsa, in a statement said the government was worried by the activities of people with questionable characters operating within the notorious Birni Gwari forest.

Vatsa said the criminals were those chased out from Zamafara State by the ongoing military operation and have infiltrated the state through the Birni Gwari axis to engage in kidnapping and cattle rustling.

The commissioner stated that to ensure the protection of lives and properties, the government had mobilised security agencies to curb the trends.