

METRO PLUS

Bandits sack Niger communities, kill pastor, others

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Nigerian Police logo

Enyioha Opara, Minna

There was confusion on Sunday morning when bandits, again attacked four communities in Shiroro Local Government Area of Niger State, killing five persons.

It was learnt that an unidentified helicopter backed the hoodlums up to carry out their operation in the area.

Our correspondent gathered that those killed in the early Sunday morning attack included a pastor with his church burnt down, a blind man and three other villagers.

It was also learnt that no fewer than 1,000 cows were rustled from the four communities attacked by the bandits numbering about 50.

According to an eyewitness, an unidentified helicopter was seen hovering around these communities throughout the three hours that the operation lasted.

“We even thought that the helicopter came to attack the bandits but it was only just moving round the communities until the bandits finished and left,” said the source.

The four communities affected in this latest attack are Nankuna, Nansa, Eburo and Lagodo, all in Erena District in Shiroro council.

“I’m sure the cows they stole from these communities must be more than 1,000. They spent over three hours operating here and the helicopter was just flying around,” he added.

At a small settlement in Nansa, the bandits were said to have burnt down the entire farm produce storage in anger when they could not meet the people at home.

It was gathered that the villagers had earlier run away for their lives before the bandits arrived.

The blind man met his death in the hands of men of the underworld when he was coming out of the bush after he had gone to toilet, while the pastor was shot at a close range right in front of his church before his congregation could come.

“They killed the pastor in front of the church in the morning before people could start coming to church. He was alone when they shot him in the head, but the blind man was killed when he was coming out from the bush”, he explained.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Wasiu Abiodun, when contacted, told our correspondent that the command was making efforts to get the details of what transpired in the affected areas.

He said, “I will get back to you as soon as I get the details, we are on it.”