

Over 100 killed as Bello Turji, Zamfara guards clash

Maiharaji Altine, Gusau

MORE than 100 people were reportedly killed on Monday during a violent clash between foot soldiers loyal to notorious bandit Bello Turji and members of the Zamfara Civilian Protection Guard near Cida village in Shinkafi Local Government Area.

A resident in the area, Sa'idu Garba, told The PUNCH that the CPG, supported by the Borno State Civilian JTF, launched an assault on Turji's camp to capture him dead or alive.

The mission was allegedly led by a repentant bandit, Bashari Meniyo.

"They mobilised themselves under the leadership of one repentant bandit called Bashari Meniyo and went straight to Turji's camp to get him either dead or alive without the knowledge of the security agents," Garba said.

"Unknown to them, Turji got information that they were coming to fight him; as such, he quickly mobilised his men, who were over 1000," he added.

According to him, the

ensuing gun battle lasted several hours.

"There was a heavy fight between the two groups, which lasted for several hours without the intervention of the security agents," he said.

Garba said over 100 of Turji's men were killed, adding that the bandit leader narrowly escaped.

"Although Bello Turji narrowly escaped, over 100 of his people were killed during the gun battle," he said.

He also confirmed the loss of over 20 CPG members, including Meniyo.

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