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32 killed in Sokoto village attack

From **Tunde Omolehin**,
Sokoto

GUNMEN yesterday killed 32 persons in Gandhi village of Sokoto State.

The victims have been buried in

accordance with Islamic rites. The Sokoto State governor, Alhaji Aminu Tambuwal, attended the burial rites.

The governor, while addressing the villagers, described the attack as unfortunate. He also promised that his government would continue to

support security agencies to protect life and property in the state.

"Our presence here is to sympathise with the victims of this unfortunate situation and assure them of the necessary security and relief materials. This is in order to ease

their suffering, especially at this difficult time of need," Tambuwal said.

The governor further assured the victims that the state government would continue to provide all the necessary materials for those who sought refuge in the camp provided by the local government council.

Gunmen had in the early hours of yesterday overrun the community, shooting indiscriminately at anyone in sight. The bandits shot into homes, killing residents that were still sleeping.

At least 10 pregnant women and 16 children were among the casualties. A victim Ndaba Usman, who lost his wife, told *Daily Sun* that the motive of the bandits was still a mystery as there was no communal clash, fuelling speculation that it was a terrorist attack. He said there used to be cattle rustling and robberies in the area but yesterday's attack was neither robbery nor cattle rustling.

He said: "I woke up and I was planning to go to the farm when I heard the sound of gunfire and as I was trying to find out what was happening, a bullet hit my wife and she died instantly. After a few minutes, there was wailing everywhere as many people died in the incident."

A police officer said the police were investigating to know the motive of the bandits and to fish out the hoodlums.

2 policemen, 3 others killed in Rivers

From **Tony John**, Port
Harcourt

TWO policemen and a hoodlum have lost their lives during a gun duel between gunmen and police in Ozuoba community, Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State. The incident happened on Tuesday.

Daily Sun gathered that bandits had engaged policemen who were on routine patrol in the area in a shootout, killing two cops on the spot.

The Rivers State police public relations officer, DSP Nnamdi Omoni, yesterday, confirmed the killings to newsmen in Port Harcourt.

Omoni described the incident as unfortunate, adding that one of the bandits died in the shootout.

He noted that the criminals had opened fire on the police personnel, who were on a stop-and-search exercise on Tuesday night, along the road. The hoodlums killed the officers and took their guns, the police spokesman said.

He disclosed that one of the officers, who was by the side, killed one of the hoodlums while the bandits were trying to escape from the scene.

The command's spokesman disclosed further that the Commissioner of Police in the State, Zaki Ahmed, has ordered a full-scale investigation into the incident.

In another development, the remains of one Samuel Worgu have been found in a bush in Omudioga community in Emohua Local Government Area of the state.

Daily Sun gathered that Worgu's corpse was found with deep machete cuts all over his body, while his car was supposed to have been taken away by the assailants.

According to a community source who craved anonymity, the victim had run into three strange persons and immediately called his brother before he was murdered.

Similarly, men dressed in police uniform reportedly shot dead a middle-aged man at Total Street, along Rumuolumeni-Iwofe Road, in Port Harcourt.

It was learnt that the uniformed men in a patrol van had stormed the area and killed their target.

Omoni could not be reached to confirm the killings in Iwofe road and Omudioga community by the time of filing this report.

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