

Bandits raid Niger communities, kill 9, abduct 15

From **John Adams** Minna

BANDITS, numbering at least 30, in the early hours of Sunday, raided some communities in Shiroro Local Government Area of Niger State, killing nine persons and kidnapping 15 others.

In addition, 11 persons who sustained injuries from the attack are currently receiving treatment at the hospital.

The affected villages are Badna, Malfa, Tunga and surrounding communities in Kurebe and Kwaki wards of the local government area.

This latest attack comes barely 24 hours after the senator representing Kaunda Central at the National Assembly, Shehu Sani, told journalists of similar incidents that claimed the lives of a military officer and 21 villagers in Birnin Gwari, Kaduna State, which shared borders with the affected communities.

The victims of Sunday's incident were mostly women and girls, some of whom were raped during the attack.

Reacting to the development, the senator representing the area (Niger East), Senator David Umoru, in a statement in Minna yesterday, described the massacre of the innocent villagers as cruel.

"I am particularly saddened and shocked at the cruel massacre of nine of my constituents, the kidnap of 15 innocent people.

"It is painful to note that this incident, which occurred not more than 36 hours ago, is just one among several other brazen attacks that have been carried out in the area in recent times."

The senator, therefore, appealed to the Niger State commissioner of police and the General Officer Commanding, 1st Division, Kaduna, to deploy personnel to the hot spots, particularly surrounding villages.

The police command's spokesman, DSP Abubakar Mohammed, said the police were aware of the