

Armed bandits raid Niger communities, kill 11, kidnap 4 women, rustle over 300 cattle

From **John Adams**, Minna

ARMED bandits numbering about 50 in the early hours of Saturday overran no fewer than five communities in Shiroro local government area of Niger state, killing 11 people and rustled over 300 cattle.

The Bandits who invaded the

...Senator Sani says bandits have declared war on his people

...Appeals to Buhari to Deploy Soldiers

communities at about 6:00 am ransacked the entire communities as they move from one house to another without any resistance for about hours.

One of the victims of the attacks identified as Saidu

had his two wives raped by four of the bandits in his presence before shooting him at a closed range.

Communities that were affected in the latest attack are Kudodo, Galapai, Dnakpala Makera, and

Dnalgwa.

This is happening as the Senator representing Niger East Senatorial District Alhaji Sani Musa has raised the alarm that his constituency is under siege.

He confirmed the latest attack to our correspondent, saying that the situation is getting out of hand.

The senator who only three days ago paid a visit to the Internally Displaced Peoples (IDP) camp in Kuta where over 100 people are being camped described the recent onslaught by the bandits as nothing but "a declaration of war against the people".

According to the lawmaker, "innocent families are being displaced, killed, raped, kidnapped and community members straddled in a state of despair.

"As the attacks continued more villagers in my constituency are awaiting their fate as no sign of succour comes their way. It is confirmed that the bandits are attacking all through the night to this afternoon and most communities are in grave danger", he said.

Despite arson attack, Oshiomhole receives 30,000 PDP defectors into APC in Edo

From **Tony Osauzo**, Benin

VIOLENCE, which has become part of crisis-ridden Edo State All Progressives Congress (APC), continued yesterday, as a podium for a rally, two vehicles, hundreds of chairs were destroyed and burnt overnight by unknown persons at the rally venue at Iyekhe, off Poly Road in Auchi, headquarters of Etsako West Local Government Area.

In spite of the arson attack suspected to have been carried out by rival factional members of the party, the rally held yesterday with a heavy turn-out

of party bigwigs and faithful.

Addressing a large crowd of party members, yesterday, National Chairman of the APC, Comrade Adams Oshiomhole, said the APC is a party of peace and would continue to preach same, assuring that the party would win the governorship election in the state.

The rally was organised to receive over 30,000 members of the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) led by a two-time member of the House of Representatives and the Edo North Senatorial candidate of the PDP in the last election, Hon Abubakar Momoh.

Oshiomhole said the party must integrate from the unit

to the highest level "so that as directed by President Muhammadu Buhari, the APC will be a different party. When I was told that they burnt this place last night, I said they should be prepared to put more fire in other places because they can't stop us.

"But don't allow anybody to push you to any length that will provoke you to fight. Those who think they have the power to fight should channel such energy against the opposition parties. What is happening here should reinforce our confidence in God, when God decrees peace, nothing can stop it, when God says it no man born of a woman can stop it.