

Gunmen kill 26 in Niger, Benue, injured 2

• Kidnap newly wed bride, 1 other, rustle cattle

From **John Adams**, Minna and **Rose Ejembi**, Makurdi

GUNMEN numbering well over 100, on Saturday, invaded some communities in Lavun, Wushishi and Mashegun Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Niger State, killing 17 people across the three LGAs and injuring several others.

The attack, which lasted through Sunday morning, saw the gunmen overrun about eight communities, leaving over 5,000 displaced.

Communities that were ransacked by the gunmen include Egbako, Ndaruka, Ebbo, Ndagbegi, Tshogi, Gogata and Ndakogitu, all in Lavun local government.

This is the first time gunmen would launch a major offensive on the area regarded as a no-go area due to the people's stronghold to their tradition.

A source close to one of the communities said the gunmen were said to have killed

one person each in Ebbo, Tsonfadagabi, Tsogi and Kanko.

While at Gbaciagi village, the gunmen invaded a wedding ceremony, kidnapped the bride and one other girl, destroyed vehicles and other properties.

All the monies realised at the wedding ceremony, including other valuables were also snatched by the rampaging gunmen.

They were also said to have rustled a number of cattle belonging to the villagers.

While on their way out of the communities and heading towards Akere community in Wushishi local government area of the state, with their rustle cattle, the gunmen got stocked at Akere when they discovered that the only bridge linking the community with Akere had collapsed.

Another source close to the Akere community said the gunmen were stranded at the point of crossing with the cattle as the animals refused to enter the river.

They eventually abandoned

the cattle at the Akere river bank, when all efforts to cross the animals were not successful, and decided to retreat back to the Sheshi community.

They were, however, confronted by the locals, but the resultant exchange of fire between the gunmen and the ill-equipped local vigilantes led to the killings of six people (two vigilantes and four locals).

The gunmen, according to the locals, later divided themselves into three groups, with one group at Dabban community, another group at Shegba,

while the third group was said to have headed towards Ndaruka community.

The attack, however, forced the people in the affected communities to flee their homes, while those who had earlier gone to the nearby market at Batati could not return home on Saturday for fear of being attacked by the gunmen.

The Commissioner for Local Government and Internal Security, Emmanuel Umar, when contacted, confirmed the latest attacks, but said he was yet to get details of the incident.

In Mashegu Local Government, the villages attacked were Sahon-Rami, Igbede, Chekaku, Ubegi, Maishankafi and Pozhi.

No fewer than nine people were said to have lost their lives to the attack which the villagers said went on simultaneously and lasted all through the night.

The father of one of the top political office holders in Mashgun and his son were among the victims and killed in the Ubegi community.

(Continued on www.sunnewsonline)

Abuse: More trouble for Abba Kyari as victim demands N48m judgment debt

By **Lukman Olabiya**

MR. Afeez Mojeed, a victim of police brutality allegedly spearheaded by the embattled Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Abba Kyari, has demanded his sack from the Police Force.

Mojeed, in a letter written through his lawyer, Kabiru Akingbolu, to the Police Ser-

vice Commission (PSC), dated February 17, 2022, is also demanding the enforcement of a N48 million judgment he got against the cop for violating his fundamental rights.

Besides, the victim pleaded with the commission to help him recover his property worth millions of naira, allegedly in the cop's procession.

In the letter, Mojeed detailed his ordeal in the hands

of Kyari and his team when his house was invaded on October 18, 2014. He alleged that they carted away his money, family's jewelry, car and illegally detained him without trial.

He also revealed how the cop and his team allegedly depleted his bank accounts containing over N48 million, and forcefully took possession of his properties based on a frivolous allegation.

He stated that he got judgment against Kyari in suit FHC/L/CS/617/2016 at the Federal High Court which the embattled cop did not appeal for many years now.

Mojeed's letter to the commission reads in part: "From the whole facts of this case, we, hereby, demand Abba Kyari's immediate dismissal from the force."

"We request the payment of N48 million judgment sum to our client, forthwith, together with all the above listed items or their worth to our client."

Kyari, who has been linked with many rights abuses in the past, is currently in the custody of the National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) over alleged involvement in drug trafficking.

Delta, Niger auto crashes claim 10 lives

From **Paul Osuyi**, Asaba and **John Adams**, Minna

AN accident involving a Toyota Hiace bus with registration number AKD 596 GE has claimed six people with six other passengers in critical condition at the hospital.

The accident occurred near **Obasanjo Farms, along Asaba-Ogwashi-Uku-Kwale-Ughelli Road in Delta State, at the weekend.**

An eyewitness said the ill-fated bus somersaulted several times as a result of a tyre burst.

The source said the burst tyre resulted in the driver losing control of the steering which caused the vehicle to summersault several times.

It was learnt that 18 passengers were in the ill-fated bus and were returning to Warri from Anambra State, where they attended a burial ceremony.

Local sources said four people died on the spot while two others breathed their last at the hospital where they were rushed from treatment.

The six injured passengers were referred to the Federal Medical Centre (FMC), Asaba, from the Ogwashi-Uku General Hospital because of the severe injuries they sustained.

One of the survivors of the crash confirmed that the accident resulted from a burst tyre.

Delta Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps

(FRSC), Ibrahim Abubakar, also confirmed the accident yesterday.

Abubakar attributed it to over speeding, noting that the vehicle might have entered into a ditch which resulted in the burst tyre. He advised motorists against over speeding.

Also, another ghastly motor accident, which occurred along the ever busy Minna-Suleja Highway in Niger state, claimed four lives, while two others were seriously injured.

The accident, involving a trailer and a Toyota Corolla, believed to be a commercial one, occurred a few kilometres to Farindoki in Paikoro LGA when the two vehicles collided.

The accident, eyewitnesses

said, occurred when the speeding Toyota Corolla with registration number, MNA 496 AL, ran into the trailer that was trying to overtake another trailer.

Four of the six occupants of the corolla died on the spot, while the remaining two, all women, sustained various degrees of injuries and were evacuated to Lambata General Hospital for treatment.

The trailer driver and his boy came out unhurt, but had the front side of the trailer damaged. The bodies of the dead had also been deposited at the same hospital by men of the state Federal Road Safety Corp (FRSC) who were at the scene of the accident.