

Gunmen kill 65, rape women, abduct scores in Niger

From **John Adams,**
Minna

GUNMEN went haywire across communities in Niger State, last Sunday and on Monday night, killing well over 60 vigilantes and five others in Tungan Magajiya, Rijau Local Government Area (LGA) and Paikpa village in Munya local government area of the State in two separate attacks.

The 60 local vigilantes were killed at Sakaba, a border village between Niger and Kebbi state, last Sunday night, at about 9pm in an ambush.

The vigilantes are from Sakaba in Kebbi state and their counterparts from Tungan Magajia and Rijau in Niger state, who were on a joint patrol along the area, due to the incessant gunmen attacks on communities from the two states. A source close to Rijau disclosed that the vigilantes were on the trail of the gunmen said to be numbering over 100 after receiving informa-

tion about their movement unknown to them (vigilantes) that an informant had alerted the gunmen that they were being trailed by the vigilantes.

The gunmen immediately divided themselves into two with one group laying ambush while others advanced forward. The vigilantes, unaware of the ambush, found themselves at the centre of the gunmen who opened fire on them from back and front.

It was further gathered that those vigilantes whose gun could not penetrate were hacked down with machetes and other dangerous weapons.

Twelve of the victims were from Rijau while the remaining 48 were from Sakaba and Tungan Magajiya.

In another development, a middle aged man has been arrested by the people in Rijau with 20 jerry cans of 25 litres of petrol heading towards

Warari village, which has been deserted by the people due to gunmen activities. The 20 jerry cans of fuel were being conveyed in a Toyota Corolla car when he was accosted by the villagers who demanded to know the destination of the commodity. His unsatisfactory explanation led to his being beaten to a point of death before he was handed over to the soldiers on patrol in the area.

However, in Paikpa village,

in Munya local government area, gunmen killed no fewer than five villagers, while a number of others were seriously injured in a midnight raid.

Unspecified number of cattle were stolen from the people by the rampaging gunmen whom eyewitnesses said stormed the community at about 11pm, riding on motorcycles with each of them carrying AK47 rifles and other dangerous weapons.

(Continued on www.sunnewsonline)

Murder in BRT: Family faults driver's account, sends SOS to Buhari, Sanwo-Olu

• As protest rocks Lagos

By **Christopher Oji**

FAMILY of deceased fashion designer, Ayanwale Oluwabamise, who was killed in a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) in Lagos, has faulted the claims by the driver of the vehicle that the lady was killed by gunmen.

The driver, Nice Andrew, who was arrested by the State Security Service (DSS) and handed over to the police, had claimed that the lady was murdered by armed men who attacked her in the bus.

The family has faulted the claims, saying that if his testimony was the truth, why did he not report the attack to the appropriate authorities, especially his office and the police?

The family said the most annoying aspect was that the suspect reported for work two days after.

The family also accused the Police and Lagos State Government of complicity in the murder of their 22-year-old daughter and urged President Muhammadu Buhari and the state Governor, Babajide

Sanwo-Olu, to wade into the matter and unravel the truth about the matter.

The Lead Counsel to the family, Mr. Ayo Ademiluyi, who enumerated the demands of the family said: "We have forensic evidence to back our testimony. All arrested persons should be tried in a competent court as soon as possible.

"Other demands are the arrest of Lagos Bus Services Limited (LBSL) Managing Director in the next 24 hours, autopsy report and Corona Inquest to be published as soon as possible, and that the Nigeria Police should track

the second mobile number of the deceased, which is still in activation. Finally, the right to life should be upheld. This matter should not be treated like that of Bowen University student, Sylvester Oromoni."

Meanwhile, the deceased's elder sister, who is an expectant mother, was said to have been hospitalised due to the trauma she suffered when information got to her that her younger sister had been recovered dead.

The family also said that Bamise's friend, Omolara, who was in touch with her during her journey in the BRT bus, is also in critical condition as a result of the loss of her blossom friend.

The elder brother to the de-