

Bandits kill traditional ruler in Sokoto

Armed men have shot dead the traditional ruler of Balle community, Aliyu Ibrahim, in Gudu Local Government Area of Sokoto State.

The gunmen also set ablaze the police station in the community.

A witness told *PREMIUM TIMES* that the gunmen stormed the community on motorcycles and shot sporadically in the air.

He said residents ran into hiding to avoid being hit by stray bullets.

The witness added that the gunmen then went straight to Balle Police Station where they burned down patrol ve-

hicles and the building before moving to the palace of the district head. They gunned him down in cold blood, said the source, who requested not to be named for security reasons.

The Nigerian Army had earlier announced a ban on the use of motorcycles in seven northern states including Sokoto to curb the spate of violence.

Balle is the headquarters of Gudu Local Government Area, and an ancient community. In 1804, it was the capital of Sokoto caliphate. It shares boundary with the Republic of Niger.

"The gunmen, upon arrival at the emir's palace, found the compound gate

locked. They, however, jumped over the fence while others were stationed outside. After killing the district head, they rode their motorcycles and fled," the witness said.

He added that it is not clear whether they killed

security personnel at the police station.

The source said no civilian was reported killed during the attack.

"The gunmen were allegedly from Niger Republic, and were on a plan revenge attack targeting

only the district head," he said.

The witness said many residents attributed the killing to vengeance as the traditional leader was the one who allegedly reported the activities of the bandits to security agencies.

The police in Sokoto State are yet to speak on the incident.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PRO) Muhammad Sadiq, did not pick or return calls to his mobile phone on Tuesday night and yesterday morning.

The attack came a day after the Emir of Katsina Abdulmumini Usman bemoaned insecurity in Sokoto State.

He said: "Every day I receive reports of kidnapping and killings from the district and village heads."



Ibrahim

Cultists in shootout as Ibadan Poly resumes

Sola Adeyemo
IBADAN

Rival cult groups on Tuesday engaged each other in a shootout at the south gate of The Polytechnic, Ibadan, Oyo



Ibadan Polytechnic