

Bandits sack eight villages, kill 70 in Niger



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At least, Bandits have killed 70 people in Shiroro Local Area of Niger State, sacked eight villages and displaced over 1,000 people.

The number of people killed rose from 15 after the first attack, which occurred earlier last week.

It was learnt that several injured persons were rushed to various hospitals in Kuta, Erena and Zumba towns, while displaced people are now seeking refuge in different Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps.

A report made available to journalists yesterday by Senator David Umaru, representing Niger East Senatorial District, indicated that within the last six days, 19 people have died in Kwaki village, 14 in Barden Dawaki village and eight in Ajatawyi village.

Other casualties include seven dead in Gwassa, five in Ajayin Bataro, four others in Bwailo, three in Baton village and two in Giji village.

Findings have it that over 800 cattle were rustled during the period.

Umaru appealed to President Muhammadu Buhari to come to the rescue of Niger-East constituency.

He said: "I'm pleading with President Muhammadu Buhari to order the relocation of security chiefs to the area to immediately curtail the

carnage.

“I’m in pains and sorrow over the killing of my people by bandits who have occupied most of our communities in the past few days. It is horrible that over 69 people have been killed and over 1,000 displaced and yet there is no respite for the good people of my constituency.

“The situation is beyond the capacity of police. I therefore appeal to President Buhari to order the military into the area to stop the bandits. I’m also calling on the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of 1 Division, Nigeria Army, Kaduna, to deploy more personnel to save the villagers from the onslaught of the bandits.”

Umaru stressed the need for government to give priority to the provision of adequate logistics in assisting security agencies in the area.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Muhammad Abubakar, told our correspondent on phone that, “for now, our record shows only 12 deaths so far.”

He added: “The state command has drafted its men in collaboration with other security agencies to the trouble areas, to ensure the security of lives and property of the people.”

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