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MINNA

# Insecurity: Village head killed, 18 kidnapped in Niger

**M**en of the underworld have invaded four villages in Niger State leaving the village head of Rumache in Kukoki

ward of Shiroro Local Government Area dead and several persons injured.

The attack, which started at 2am on Friday, left the village head, Mallam Ahmad Yakubu, murdered and 17 villagers from four other communities in the local government area kidnapped.

It was reliably gathered that the bandits also dispossessed the villagers of their valuable belongings worth a huge amount of money, setting their houses ablaze and ab-

ducted the son of the deceased Village Head.

It should be recalled that similar attacks were carried out by heavily armed bandits on Magami, Gungu, Zongoro and Masuku Villages in Shiroro Local Government Area where 17 people were kidnapped.

*Saturday Telegraph* gathered that several others sustained various degrees of injuries from gunshots and other dangerous weapons.

Confirming the attack, Chairman of Shiroro Local Government

Area, Mallam Suleiman Dauda Chukuba, said the villagers were taken unawares and it was difficult to ascertain the number of bandits, who invaded the village.

According to him, "the attack happened between 1am and 2am. They were many and they took the villagers unaware. No one could ascertain their numbers because it was night.

"As for casualties, only the Village Head was killed while his son was kidnapped. The raiders had

invaded four communities and kidnapped 17 people in Magami, Gungu, Zongoro and Masuku communities a day before."

He stated that Police from Erena Division and some vigilantes are currently combing the forest and the villages.

The Chairman then appealed for urgent intervention from the government, saying, "We need government's intervention urgently."

One of the children of the deceased Village Head, Al-Mustapha

Ahmed, also confirmed the death of his father and the abduction of one of his brothers.

He lamented that the government has deliberately remained complacent on the lingering security challenges currently rocking the whole of Shiroro local government.

According to Ahmed, "attacks of this nature have almost become a daily routine, thereby subjecting unarmed and peace-loving people to ceaseless tension, fear, anxiety, and panic constantly."

Police rescue