## METRO

...CRIME, CITY WATCH, COURTS

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Umar Abdullahi SOKOTO

t least, three persons have been reportedly killed with over 24 others abducted in separate bandits' attacks on communities in three local government areas of Sokoto State

The affected local governments are Tureta, Dange/Shuni and Bodinga councils.

The attacks, according sources were launched on the communities by suspected fleeing bandits. who escaped from ongoing joint security"Operation Sahara Storm" onslaught in Sokoto east

Meanwhile, chairman Dange/ Shuni Local Government Coun-

## Bandits kill 3, abduct over 24 in Sokoto ... 6 released after payment of N5m ransom

cil, Alhaji Umar Gidan Gara who confirmed the incidents said three persons were shot dead by the bandits during the attacks that also led to the abduction of no fewer than 17 persons across communities of iWababe .Tafkin Kaiwa and Dan Kaiwa.

Gidan Gara said bargain on the ransom to be paid for the release of the abductees by the bandits was ongoing.

The council boss expressed sadness over the current insecurity in the area which he noted was causing great threat, "Our people have continued to flee their villages in batches to the headquarters of local government area as refugees.

"Now the handits have resort to house to house attacks to cart away their properties and abduct people for ransom.

"We are in a dilemma as the

threat by bandits is beyond the local government capability to handle. I am appealing to the state government for support, I'm curtailing the trend of attacks on our people," he said.

In the same vein, the chairman of Tureta Local Government, Alhaji Abubakar Salisu said the attacks were carried out by suspected fleeing bandits from Sokoto and Zamfara states.

According to him, the suspected bandithave also killed a member of vigilance group and abducted six other family members during an attacked on some of the villages in area.

Salisu explain that the kidnapped victims mostly women were later released after the payment of N5 million ransom.

An eve witness and resident of Bodinga town, Malam Abdullahi Bodinga said bandits have been terrorising and unleashing attacks on people across communities in the area.

"Even recently communities in Kaurar Miyau village in Bodinga area took the bull by the horn that led to the killing of a suspected bandit. Though, a woman was killed in the effort to resist the attack that also got five persons abducted by the bandits," he confirmed.

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**Bandits** 

Widow jailed 4 years for brutalising 12-year-old househelp



Alice was going to the church when she saw one Sunday Joel crying, with a bloody body and the woman was forced to stop to see what was