

Bandits kill three, kidnap six in Niger



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By



Bandits numbering over 20 have killed at least three people during attacks on communities in Shiroro Local Government Area of Niger State. The bandits also kidnapped six others and rustled not less than 1,200 cattle in the incident which occurred at the weekend. Some of the communities, according to report, are Beri Kargo, Kini, Anguwan Makaranta and Shema.

The bandits operated under the cover of darkness, shooting sporadically into the air to scare the villagers. The bandits avoided areas where military operations were ongoing, which explained why they escaped without arrest.

The Director General of the State Emergency Management Agency (NSEMA), Alhaji Ibrahim Inga, said government had despatched officials of the agency to the local government to distribute relief materials to the victims. He said: “We have a marching order from Mr Governor to provide relief materials to the victims.

Three Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps have been set up at Jigiwa, Gurmana and Allawa; each accommodating not less than 1,000 displaced people.” Inga, who declined to comment on the casualty figure, said the items distributed to the IDPs yesterday included 80 bags of rice, 50 bags of maize and 15 bags of beans, 60 cartons of ‘macaroni’ and 150 cartons of noodles. The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Muhammad Abubakar, did not react to the incident but promised to get back to our correspondent. Other items were 15 packets of table spoons, 150 mosquito nets, 10 cartons of Maggi cubes, one bundle of mats and blankets each, as well as bags of salt, among others.

The village head of Kuta Yanmah, Alhaji Yusuf Abdullahi, who spoke on behalf of the IDPs, expressed gratitude to the state government for the gesture. Abdullahi, however, pleaded with government to improve on the security architecture in the area.