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Family of 11, 10 others burnt alive as bandits attack Kaduna village

By Ibrahim Hassan

NO fewer than 21 people, including a family of 11, were reportedly killed by suspected bandits in an attack on Bakali village, Fika district of Giwa Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

It was gathered that local guards and hunters in the village mobilised to launch an attack on the gunmen in their hideout but they were attacked on the way.

The gunmen were said to have killed some of the vigilante members and pursued others to the village.

A source said the suspected bandits started shooting at people and burning houses immediately they entered the village.

The bandits reportedly locked 11 members of a family in a room and set the house on fire.

A community leader in the village, Alhaji Sani Bakali, told journalist on phone, yesterday, that the over 100 bandits raided the village, throwing the entire village into pandemonium.

Sani Bakali added that 11 members of his family were killed in the attack.

He said on phone: "They came to our village on Tuesday around 4pm on several motorbikes brandishing AK-47 rifles.

"Immediately they came, they started moving round the village, shooting sporadically. In the process, they came to our house, set the house ablaze with 11 people inside.

"All the 11 people are members of my family. They include three women and eight children, who were wives and children of my three younger brothers.

"They also killed two of my uncles. While on the bush path, we discovered four other corpses burnt to death. They equally killed two imams, one of my neighbours and a close friend of mine.

"We just performed the funeral prayer for the 21 this afternoon (yesterday). Initially, it was 20 corpses we buried, before we later discovered one more corpse inside the bush, we buried him too.

"Right now, people have fled the village. I am the only one left in the village now, because I have come to pick something. I just took my brother and his two wives to Zaria. I am about leaving now myself.

"Apart from the people killed, there are nine people we are yet to see since the incident. As it is now, we don't know whether they have been killed or not."

Bakali village is now a ghost town as the remaining villagers have fled to other locations.

Contacted, Muhammad Jalige, spokesman of the state police command, confirmed the attack, saying: "Yes, there was an attack in Giwa, Bakali village, to be

precise, and we have sent a team of Police officers and men there to ascertain the situation of

things. We are going to get across to you as soon as we have the details."



fisherman, an indigene of Delta State, had been living with his Benue wife in the community where he ekes out a living from fishing.

According to the source, the couple had early in morning engaged each other in a heated argument over an alleged N5,000 realised from the sale of fish but was unaccounted for by the late wife.

The source said: "The argument led to a fight, the husband beat her to a pulp and she passed out bleeding from her mouth and nostrils.

"Neighbours, who intervened, made efforts to revive her but it was unsuccessful. She was eventually rushed to Benue State University Teaching Hospital, BSUTH, for further treatment where she was confirmed dead."

Confirming the development, Benue State Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, Deputy Superintendent Catherine

Shimakarr village of Shendam Local Government Area, Plateau State, has been killed by Police operatives in the state while three other suspects were arrested over criminal conspiracy and armed robbery in the state.

The Commissioner of Police in the state, Mr Isaac Akinmoyede, disclosed this, yesterday, while presenting the corpse and other suspects to newsmen in Jos.

Akinmoyede said the kidnapper was shot and killed on Tuesday during a gun duel with the police, but that his colleagues had escaped.

He vowed to decisively deal with criminals in the state, attributing the feat achieved to the commitment and resilience of the command's officers and men.

He said: "Yesterday (Tuesday), at about 7 a.m., one Rev. Ganko Istifanus of Church of Christ in Nation, COCIN, Shimakarr, reported to us that

came to his residence and kidnapped his son, Godsave Damen, and two others to an unknown destination.

"Immediately, we received the information, a combined team of policemen, vigilante and hunters were mobilised to the scene and engaged the hoodlums in a gun battle.

"In the process, one of the kidnappers was shot dead, while others took to their heels. We recovered one AK-47 rifle and 21 empty wheels of live ammunition."

The commissioner further said the three other suspects arrested over armed robbery were nabbed in Nasarawa Gwong community of Jos North and Gyel community of Jos South local government areas.

"Similarly, we have arrested one Sunday Alfa and Uzaiifa Adam at Nasarawa Gwong community of Jos North over armed robbery activities.