

# Gunmen invade Niger, kidnap 19 persons

●As bandits kill ECWA pastor in Shiroro LGA

By Wole Mosadomi

**NINETEEN** persons were Sunday reportedly kidnapped by gunmen that invaded Ogu and Tegina communities in Rafi Local Government Area of Niger State.

This came as a pastor with the Evangelical Church Winning All, ECWA, was killed by gunmen in Chukuba, Shiroro Local Government Area of the state, weekend.

It was gathered that six people were abducted from Ogu community while the other 13 were abducted in Tegina town by the gunmen, who invaded communities on motorcycles and reportedly shot sporadically at whatever object on sight.

An impeccable source, Kamal Mamman Wayam, in a telephone conversation, said the bandits stormed residences of some of the villagers and had a free day as they ate and also left with valuables of their victims.

He said: "The gunmen, who came in their number, stormed Ogu, Sunday afternoon, on motorcycles and started shooting into the air as they drove around the village.

"They ransacked people's houses and carted away valuables and also abducted six persons from the community. Four of the persons abducted were members of the same family while the other two were visitors to the community."

The attack on Tegina was said to have happened at 12:30 am of Monday during which 13 persons were abducted.

He said: "The gunmen entered the room of my daughter that night but my daughter could not be located as she hid under the bed while her husband hid in the ceiling.

The gunmen spent over 30 minutes in the house and ate almost all the food in the kitchen but thank God that they were not abducted though 13 persons were kidnapped from the village."

It would be recalled that four days ago, the Youth leader of All Progressives Congress, the District Head of Gunna and two children of two health workers in Garin Gabbas and Yakila communities were abducted in the same local government.

## Bandits kill pastor in Shiroro LGA

The pastor with the Evangelical Church Winning All, ECWA, Jeremiah Ibrahim, was reportedly killed by gunmen in Chukuba, Shiroro LGA on Friday. A senior official in ECWA

Goodnews Church Minna, Niger State, who pleaded anonymity, said Pastor Ibrahim had gone to check his farm in Chukuba and

decided to visit a colleague who was the Resident Pastor of Chukuba when he was attacked and killed.

"The latest assassination is coming two weeks after six of our missionaries, including one of their wives was abducted," he lamented.

Niger State Police Command's spokesperson, Wasiu Abiodun, could not be reached for confirmation at press time.



CRASHED: Accident scene where an SUV rammed into stationary truck on Biyanzin Road, near Kubwa Train Station, Sunday night. No life was lost. Photo: NAN.

## Police parade 5 suspected killers of Police Inspector Dickson's country home

By Emem Idio

**YENAGOA**—THE Bayelsa State Police Command has paraded five suspects who allegedly killed a police inspector during an attack at the country home of former Governor Seriake Dickson in Toru-Orua, Sagbama Local Government Area of the state last month.

Parading the suspects at the state Police Command headquarters, yesterday, the state Commissioner of Police, Mike Okoli, said the suspects, who have confessed to the crime, said they only planned but never carried out the crime, adding that investigations are ongoing.

Okoli said: "On November 18 this year, the house of former governor of Bayelsa State in Toru-Orua was invaded by unknown gunmen, who operated through the river. They invaded the building in search of money. Apparently their search did not yield any dividend. They ended up shooting and killing our police inspector.

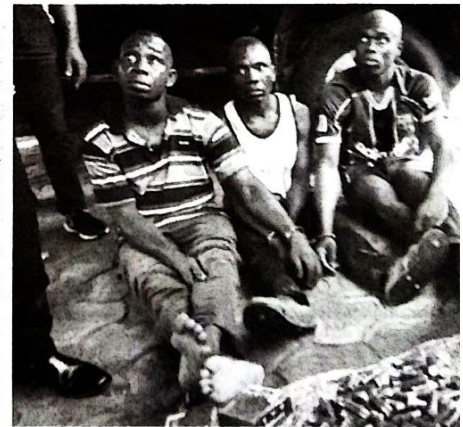
"We went into action, we have been following the case diligently, at the moment five suspects connected to that incident are in our net.

"They confessed clearly that they planned the attack but that they did not carry it out. So, the issue is: if you planned the attack and did not carry it out, you got to tell us who carried it out. On that ground, they will go to court to tell the court what they know about that incident.

"Based on a tip-off at the Swali waterfront in Yenagosa, my detectives located a boat loaded

ready to sail to Southern Ijaw LGA. They arrested the boat, searched it and recovered a large quantity of substance suspected to be Indian hemp.

"They also recovered a bag containing 200 live cartridges, the type used by pump action gun. We have arrested them and they are in our custody."



The suspects as paraded by Bayelsa yesterday.

## Father of 2 napped for raping 25-

By Emem Idio

**A** 41-year-old father of two, who allegedly raped a 25-year-old virgin and former youth corps member was yesterday, paraded by the Bayelsa State Police Command.

During the parade at the police headquarters, the state Commissioner of Police, Mike Okoli, described the case as very pathetic.

"This is a very pathetic one. A 25-year-old lady who just finished youth service, from the medical report, this lady is still a virgin. This young man lured her, promised her marriage and took her to a friend's house, unknown to her

that this man was planning to have unlawful carnal knowledge of her. He locked her up in the room.

"This girl knelt and begged him in the name of God not to rape her. The man insisted that if she refuses that he is going to kill her.

"He raped her and escaped. Through discreet investigation, we have been able to arrest him and he confessed to the crime and the case is almost set for prosecution in court.

He said the state police command has zero-tolerance for cases of rape, defilement, adding: "We have no mercy for them. In fact, all heinous cases under my watch, we must make