

News



vanguardnews



@vanguardnews



@vanguardnews

# Bandits kill 30 vigilantes, attack military post in Niger

By Wole  
Mosadomi

**M**INNA—NO fewer than 30 vigilante members were reportedly killed in Kotonkoro town, Mariga Local Government Area of Niger State on Wednesday.

The vigilantes were said to be on a rescue mission after receiving a distress call that the bandits have invaded another village.

It was gathered that as the vigilantes were heading for the area,

informants from the village were also said to have alerted the bandits, who laid ambush for them and the vigilantes were killed in the process.

As the sad story got to the villages, another set of vigilante members were raised and headed for the troubled area but were also killed by the bandits, who also laid siege to them along the bush path.

One of the villagers, who confirmed the killings, said the bandits had succeeded in killing

their vigilante members, adding: "I cannot give the exact number of those killed but they are many."

It was also gathered that the bandits carried out an attack on a military post in the area but it was not immediately ascertained whether there were casualties.

Meanwhile, Nigerian Air Force has reportedly deployed helicopter to the area to flush out the bandits from their hideouts.

"Nobody knows the

number of casualties as of now but many of them were killed and innocent lives were also lost," the source added.

At press time, the state Police spokesman, DSP Wasiu Abiodun, could not be reached for details.

However, Secretary to the State Government, Alhaji Ahmed Matane, who confirmed the killings, said: "No fewer than 20 vigilantes have been confirmed killed by the bandits while the military post in the area was also attacked and one soldier was killed."