

Black weekend in Niger as bandits kill 14, kidnap women

By Wole Mosadomi

No fewer than 14 people were feared dead after bandits invaded Makeri town in Wushishi Local Government Area of Niger State at the weekend.

The victims include those who were shot dead and those who escaped attack but drowned in the process.

The attackers also reportedly rustled several cows, snatched several motorcycles and kidnapped many people especially females.

The bandits, who stormed the town on Friday, were said to have shot seven people dead at the Market Square, leaving others with various degrees of injury.

While those injured were rushed to Ibrahim Babangida Specialist Hospital, Minna for treatment, several others who tried to escape by swimming through river Kaduna drowned.

Those who managed to swim across were said to

have been instantly gunned down at the river bank by some of the attackers who were stationed there.

A source from Wushishi, the headquarters of the LGA, told Sunday Vanguard that some of the bodies of those who drowned had been recovered by divers who were still searching for several others still missing. The source said 11 bodies, mostly of women and children, recovered had buried.

The people mostly affected were from Kwata Ward of Wushishi Local Government Area. Residents of the villages, it was learnt, had started fleeing the town as the bandits after the attack were hiding in communities around Kundu in Rafi Local Government Area of the state.

Banditry has been a common occurrence in Niger State in recent months. Several kidnappings including

students in the state have been linked to bandits.

Governor Abubakar Sani

Sharia in S/W: PFN, MURIC clash

By Kennedy Mbele

An Islamic human rights group, the Muslim Rights Concern (MURIC), has clashed with the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria, PFN, over the latter's advice to the Senate and the National Assembly, not to introduce Sharia Law to the South-West zone of the country through the ongoing constitutional review.

President of the PFN, Bishop Wale Oke, had, on Thursday, advised the Senate against introducing Sharia Law in the South-West. He also advised the National Assembly not to succumb to such agitation, because, according to him, it is capable of further plunging the country into major crisis and suggested that the secularity of the nation, devoid of any religious upheaval, should not be tampered with under any guise.

MURIC Director, Professor

Bello claimed several LGAs in the state were being occupied by bandits, thus displacing the people.

He called for help.

Ishaq Akintola, in a statement obtained by Sunday Vanguard, accused the PFN of always attacking Muslim groups and heating up the polity. "Our Christian neighbors have come again. They are always the ones who fire the first shot. They are always heating up the polity", Akintola stated, adding that it was their well-known pattern.

He explained that Shariah is the Allah-given fundamental human right of Muslims which Christians are determined to deprive them of.

Accusing the PFN of using both fair and foul means to achieve their objective, the MURIC Director described the body's action as "the gospel according to Niccolo Machiavelli" whereby the end justifies the means, irrespective of what they do to achieve it. He noted that Sharia came to the South-West long before the advent of Christianity and the amalgamation of Nigeria.