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Bandits kill 15, abduct women, children in Niger communities

3 By Wole Mosadomi

MINNA—15 persons were reportedly killed by suspected bandits that raided communities in Mariga Local Government Area of Niger State, yesterday.

It was gathered that the bandits stormed Beri town in Bobi District of the local government on motorcycles shooting sporadically before carrying out their nefarious activities.

A source said it was during the indiscriminate shooting that no fewer

than 15 villagers, including a Mobile Policeman, were gunned down by the bandits.

Many people who scampered for safety, reportedly sustained injuries as the Beri Police Station was set ablaze by the bandits.

As Beri town was being raided, it was gathered that another set of bandits stormed Garin-Gabas but youths in the area also stood up and defended themselves and the town.

At press, the number of casualties recorded could not be ascertained.

...Abduct women, children.

Similarly, some bandits reportedly raided Ungwan Bako in the Kotonkoro District of Mariga Local Government Area abducting many people mostly women and children.

The state Police Command spokesman, DSP Wasiu Abiodun, could not be reached for confirmation, but the Niger State Emergency Management Agency, NSEMA, confirmed the incidents but did not give details.

Director-General of the agency, Ahmed Inga, said: "We are aware that

some communities were raided in Mariga Local Government Area but we are yet to get the full details.

Meanwhile, Governor Abubakar Bello, has jetted out of the country at the heat of the invasion.

A statement from Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Mary Noel-Barje, in Minna, yesterday, said the governor left the country on a "security mission" but did not mention the country and exact date of his arrival back to the country.

Ondo youths chase monarch