

Inspector, 6 others dead as Police battle bandits in Katsina

● *Bandits kill 3, set Police station ablaze in Niger*

By Wole Mosadomi & Bashir Bello

A fierce battle between security operatives and bandits reportedly left a police inspector and six other persons dead in Zandam village, Jibia Local Government Area of Katsina State.

It was gathered that the casualties included three suspected bandits and three villagers.

Confirming the incident, spokesperson of Katsina State Police Command, SP Gambo Isah, said the incident happened when the bandits in their large number, armed with sophisticated weapons, on motorcycles invaded the village.

Isah said an uncompleted clinic block was also set ablaze by the

hoodlums during the attack.

According to him, "Monday, at about 17:00hrs, bandits in large number, armed with sophisticated weapons, on motorcycles invaded Zandam village, Jibia LGA of the state. The bandits had a fierce gun battle with the mobile policemen deployed to the village. At the scene, it was discovered that three residents, all males, were shot and killed by the hoodlums while five others sustained injuries.

"The team gunned down three of the bandits. One Inspector of police gallantly lost his life during the encounter.

"An uncompleted clinic block was set ablaze by the hoodlums. Police reinforcement was deployed to the area and injured persons were given first aid and moved to general

hospital. Investigation in progress to track down the fleeing hoodlums."

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In a related development, there was pandemonium, yesterday, as bandits invaded Kampani Bobi in Mariga Local Government Area of Niger State, killing three, abducting some people and setting a police station ablaze.

It was gathered that the bandits arrived in the town on motorcycles, shooting sporadically to scare the villagers.

A source said: "We are not sure of the number of our people abducted but most of them were women. Each

household is still counting and until when we get the statistics before we know who and who is missing."

Similarly, Maigoge village in the same local government was invaded and their cattle rustled.

As a result of the invasion, many of the villagers and surrounding communities have started fleeing the affected villages.

Contacted, Director-General, Niger State Emergency Management Agency, NSEMA, Ibrahim Inga, confirmed the development, saying: "We learned that bandits invaded the village and some people were killed and some cattle rustled by the bandits.

"Three persons were killed, several others injured and displaced in Kampanin Bobi in Mariga LGA this (Tuesday) morning."

Delta community leadership crisis: Youths burn down