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# Gunmen kill 12 security men, 11 others in Kaduna, Niger, Rivers

By Wole Mosadomi, Ibrahim Hassan-Wuyo & Davies Iheamnachor

**T**WELVE security operatives were among 23 people killed in different attacks by suspected gunmen in Kaduna, Niger, and Rivers states, weekend, with many sustaining injuries while many houses were razed.

About 11 locals were allegedly burnt to death, yesterday, while sleeping by gunmen, who set fire to the Atak Mawai community in Zaman Dabo village, Atypa Chiefdom of Zangon Kataf Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

A native, who craved anonymity, said: "We were attacked in the early hours of today (yesterday) by unknown gunmen. They killed about 10 persons. The attackers also burnt down about 10 houses."

"The attackers stormed the community around 3 am when the people were asleep and went from house to house unleashing their deadly act against the people."

"As I am talking to you, we are yet to ascertain the number of those killed and those injured by the attackers until we go round the area. Most of those killed were burnt in their houses as the people were fast

asleep.

"People's foodstuffs have also been destroyed, other valuables were also burnt. Security personnel later came to ensure calmness and prevent further attack by the attackers."

The Kaduna State Commissioner, Ministry of Internal Security and Home Affairs, Samuel Aruwan, yesterday, confirmed the killings, saying: "Security forces have reported to the Kaduna State Government that Kurmin Masara general area of Zangon Kataf LGA was attacked in the early hours of today (yesterday)."

"According to the reports, troops of the Nigerian Air Force Special Forces, who responded to distress calls from the area also fell into an ambush as they mobilised to the scene of the attack."

"The troops cleared the ambush and reached the general area, with troops of Operation Safe Haven, OPSH. As at 4:30 pm, 11 residents were confirmed killed while some were inflicted with gunshot injuries."

## 11 killed in Niger

In Niger State, 11 Joint Security Task Force members were reportedly killed, Saturday, by suspected terrorists that invaded Galadima Kogo in Shiroro

Local Government Area of the state.

It was also gathered that scores of the villagers were also killed in the town and suburb.

In what looks like a reprisal attack by the terrorists against the security men. The armed men were said to have gone straight to the camp of the task force in Galadima Kogo where the operatives were killed.

A source said seven of the security men, who were said to be part of the commanders, were caught unawares and killed by the terrorists numbering about 50.

Besides the killing of the commanders, some members of the joint security task force including the local vigilante members were also gunned down.

After the onslaught on the task force camp, the terrorists also stormed some villages around and killed scores as their corpses are said to be littering the villages.

Houses and vehicles were also razed down in the villages attacked being a market day.

As a result, scores of the villagers, especially in Galadima Kogo, have fled the areas and are now taking refuge in safer communities in the area.

A dependable source said: "We saw the armed men moving towards the area in groups, Saturday morning, from the Allawa area but we

did not know that they were coming to attack the special hunters in Galadima Kogo."

"They came through Galape and Kudodo where they confiscated a vehicle and asked the driver to take them to Galadima Kogo. While some of them came on motorcycles, others trekked and because of their number, they were able to overpower the security personnel."

Chairman of Shiroro Local Government area, Mallam Suleiman Chukuba, confirmed the attack on Galadima Kogo but could not say the exact number of casualties recorded by the terrorists and the security agents too.

## Task force camp shut down in Niger

Meanwhile, the Joint Security Task Force stationed at Kuchi in Munya Local Government Area of the state in the early hours of yesterday reportedly vacated the town as a result of the bloody attack to strategise.

But the Concerned Shiroro Youths of Niger State have condemned the withdrawal of security personnel from the area by the government and subsequent deployment of same to Kontagora.

A statement by Co-conveners of Concerned Shiroro Youths, Sani Kokki and Bello Ibrahim, said: "Considering how porous, prone to insecurity and vulnerable to deadly attacks by the rampaging hydra-headed, venomous murderous and heartless terrorists Galadima Kogo is, one can easily conclude that withdrawal of security personnel at this time is a deliberate attempt to further jeopardise people's lives and put them in the line."

# NDLEA nabs 3 trans-border traffickers with 48,000 Tramadol tabs in Adamawa

By Kingsley Omonobi

**T**HE National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA, has arrested three suspected trans-border drug traffickers with 48,000 tablets of 225mg Tramadol in Mubi, Adamawa.

Director, Media and Advocacy, Mr Femi Babafemi, revealed this in a statement, yesterday, in Abuja.

Babafemi said the suspects were apprehended while trying to smuggle the drugs into Cameroon Republic, adding that the agency also intercepted over 1,500 kilograms of imported Loud and other illicit substances in raids across Lagos and Edo states.



The suspects with the drugs

He said the suspects, Mohammed Hussaini, 32; Adamu Bella, 18, and Mohammed Umar, 18, were arrested at Tsamiya Junction,

Madanya Road, Mubi North Local Government Area of Adamawa.

The spokesman said the suspects were arrested last Friday with the exhibits concealed in the packets of another drug.

He said: "When interviewed, they claimed the drugs were being taken to Bagira town along Nigeria-Cameroon border to be delivered to some Cameroonians for onward delivery to Garoua in Cameroon."

"This comes on the heels of a similar operation at Alaba Rago area of Lagos where operatives of the state command of the agency intercepted 1,200 parcels of imported Loud."

"A strong variant of cannabis is suspected to have been smuggled into the state from a neighbouring country with a total weight of 1,229 kilograms."

## Kidnapped Catholic priest's father found dead

By Chidi Nkwopara

**O**WERRI—The decomposing remains of Mr Damian Anyanwu, the father of an Austrian-based Catholic priest, Rev. Fr. Paulinus Anyanwu, in a bush at Ikperejere, Ihite Uboma Local Government Area of Imo State has created apprehension among the people.

Vanguard gathered that the late Damian Anyanwu was kidnapped by unknown persons, last week Sunday.

It was equally gathered that the late Anyanwu, who was described by some respondents as "loving and kind-hearted," attended the

Sunday morning mass and was kidnapped on his return to his family compound in Umuoparukwu.

A villager, who spoke anonymously, said: "The man's decomposing remains were found three days after his reported kidnap in a bush at Ikperejere, Ihite Uboma Local Government Area of Imo State."

"A close look at Anyanwu's body showed that his neck was swollen and bloodstains were noticeable in his nostrils."

"I have not ceased to wonder how and why anybody or group of persons, should waste the life of such a loving and kind-hearted man. This sad incident remains a rude shock to everyone that knew Papa Father in his lifetime."

## Gunmen ambushed soldiers, killed one, injured 2 in Rivers

In a related development, unknown gunmen, yesterday, reportedly ambushed military men on Emohua-Kalabari road between Asari-Toru and the Emohua Local Government Areas of Rivers State, killing a soldier and injuring two others.

It was gathered that the unidentified gunmen ambushed the soldiers close to Abiankwo market and shot at them, killing and injuring the reported victims.

Chairman of Asari-Toru Local Government Area, Onengiyefori George, said: "The incident happened in the wee hours of this morning (Sunday) around 5:30/6:00 am. The soldiers were going to their duty post. Between Emohua and Asari-Toru Local Government, there is a river demarcation. The criminals ambushed them on the bridge."

"They came on a speed boat. I was not there, but this was according to their (soldiers) story. They (gunmen) ambushed them and exchanged gunfire with them. One soldier died while two others were wounded."

"As I talk to you now, I am on the said road with my team. The place is calm. Normal activities have resumed."