

# News



## Bandits kill 65 persons, abduct others in Niger, Kebbi

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**A**BOUT 65 persons mostly members of the local vigilantes have been reportedly killed by bandits in border communities in Niger and Kebbi states between Sunday and yesterday.

It was gathered that the killings took place in Tungan Magajia, Rijau local government area and Paikoa village in Munva local government area of Niger State and Sakaba local government area of Kebbi State.

A source disclosed that the 60 local vigilantes were killed at Sakaba, which is a border village between Niger and Kebbi states Sunday night, at about 9:00 pm in an ambush.

It was gathered that a popular cattle rearer, Shanu, and three others in Unguwar Isah, Sakaba LGA and an undisclosed number of cattle belonging to the people of the village were taken away by bandits.

On Monday, according to one Sulaiman, the leader of the local vigilante known as "Yansa kai" Kottor was killed by bandits and scores of villagers were also taken hostage.

However, the bandits, yesterday, launched a dreaded attack killing at least 68 local vigilantes and other civilians in Yombe area a few kilometres away from Dirin Daji town.

Another source said the vigilantes from Sakaba in Kebbi State and their counterparts from Tungan Magajia and Rijau in Niger State were said to be on a joint patrol along the area due to the incessant gunmen attacks on the border communities when they were killed.

"Twelve of the victims were from Rijau while the remaining 48 are from Sakaba and Tungan Magajia."

According to a source close to Rijau, the vigilantes were on the trail of the gunmen said to be over 100 after receiving information about their movement and unknown to them (vigilantes) an informant had alerted the gunmen that they were being trailed and an ambush was laid on them where they were massacred.