

17 killed in Kankia LGA

In a separate attack over the weekend, about 17 residents of Gwalgoro village in Kankia LGA were reportedly killed by bandits. Many women and children have since fled the area for safety. The incident happened on Saturday.

While the Katsina State government said 11 people were killed during the attack, residents insisted that they lost 17 people.

A resident who preferred not to be mentioned for security reasons said that they had buried 17 of their loved ones, according to the Islamic injunction.

“Death or killing is not something you can exaggerate for whatever reason, morally and religiously, so the exact number is 17 as I told you,” the resident said.

However, the state’s Commissioner for Internal Security and Home Affairs, Nasiru Mu’azu, said 11 people were killed following a reprisal by bandits, hours after security forces succeeded in foiling an earlier assault and neutralised several members of the gang.

According to him, the violence began on May 2, when intelligence reports revealed that a notorious bandit leader, identified as Mohammodu, was leading armed men towards key bridges in Kankia Local Government Area.

Upon receiving the information, members of the community alerted security agencies.

The Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in Kankia subsequently mobilised and led a joint security team to intercept the attackers. Security operatives engaged the bandits in a confrontation, neutralising several of them and recovering eight motorcycles as well as rustled cattle. The statement said the recovered items are currently in police custody.

According to the commissioner, the bandits later regrouped and, in retaliation for the losses suffered, launched a fresh attack on Gwalgoro village in Gyaza/Kunduru Ward at about noon the same day.

During the attack, 11 residents were killed in what the government described as a “cowardly assault on innocent civilians.”