

Over 40 people killed in 2 months

In the last two months, between March and May, 2026, over 40 people have been killed in Katsina State, according to media reports collated by Daily Trust.

The killings were largely driven by banditry, reprisal attacks, and the collapse of local peace arrangements.

On April 27, two people were killed when gunmen launched coordinated raids on Gidan Sarkin Noma and Gidan Wa'u settlements in Guga Ward Bakori LGA.

Mahadi Guga, a resident, said about 20 men riding on 10 motorcycles stormed the communities around 6:30 p.m, killing at least two residents, including Sabiu Mubarak.

The attackers reportedly burned homes, destroyed food storage facilities, rustled livestock, and looted properties.

A day earlier, on April 26, no fewer than 11 persons were killed in a renewed bandit attack in Gurbi village of Kankara LGA.

Police spokesperson in the state, Abubakar Sadiq, in a statement, said bandits attacked the village and fatally shot 11 persons, while two others sustained varying degrees of injury before the arrival of security agencies.

“On receipt of the distress call, a joint security team comprising the police, military, and other sister security agencies, led by the DPO, promptly mobilised to the scene. The assailants fled on sighting the advancing security forces.”

A policeman was killed and two civilians wounded after bandits armed with weapons on Sunday, April 5, launched coordinated attacks on two communities in Matazu LGA.

The assailants stormed Sayaya town in Matazu, set the community health care centre ablaze, looted shops and burnt several major stores in the town.

Ibrahim Kaula Mohammed, the Chief Press Secretary to the governor, said the gunmen invaded the area, ambushed the police station and killed a policeman.

On March 17, the villages of Falale and Kadobe in Jibia LGA were attacked and 15 people were killed.

Nasir Mu'azu, the state's Commissioner for Home Affairs, said local security forces had previously killed three gunmen during a firefight in the area. In retaliation, gunmen carried out a reprisal on Tuesday, killing at least 15 people.

“Security forces have since restored order and stabilized the situation,” he said in a statement. “We appeal to residents to remain calm and allow security forces to complete their investigation.”

On March 10, at least 14 people were killed and several others were injured following two separate attacks by bandits in Dandume and Musawa LGAs.

The attacks, which occurred in Dansoda and Jikamshi communities of Dandume and Musawa LGAs, respectively, threw the affected communities into panic as gunmen reportedly opened fire on residents and looted properties. A resident of Dansoda, Kabir Adamu, said 11 people were killed on the spot.

In the Jikamshi community, the suspected bandits killed three residents and left 11 others with varying degrees of gunshot injuries.

A resident of the area, Suleiman Ibrahim, said the hoodlums operated in the area for more than an hour, during which they looted shops and carted away food items and other valuables worth millions of naira.

Troops of the Nigerian Army killed 45 terrorists during the gun battle with bandits terrorising the Danmusa Local Government Area of Katsina State on March 6.

A captain and two soldiers also died in the gun duel, according to a statement by the state’s Commissioner for Internal Security and Home Affairs, Nasir Mua’zu.

The statement said, “Among those killed was Alti, the nephew and second-in-command to the notorious bandit leader, Adamu Alieru. Also eliminated was another top bandit known as Damale.

“The clash began when bandits from Zamfara State, armed with sophisticated weapons and riding on motorcycles, attacked Alhazawa village in Musawa LGA on March 5. They came to steal cattle.

“However, community members and repentant bandits from the area fought back. Four bandits were killed, and all the rustled cows were recovered and returned to their owners.

“Seeking revenge, the bandits returned in large numbers on March 6. They ran into soldiers attached to the Army’s Forward Operating Base in Dan Ali while heading towards Musawa LGA near Maidabino A ward.

“What followed was an intense and fierce battle. The Army successfully neutralised all 45 bandits. However, the victory came at a cost. Captain Paul Hassan and two other soldiers lost their lives in the encounter,” he added.