

Imam, 9 Others Killed In Sokoto, Katsina Attacks



Scene of Improvised Explosive Device (IED) explosion along Sabon Birni-Kurawa in Sokoto State on Sunday

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At least 10 people have been killed and 12 others abducted in separate attacks by suspected bandits on communities in Sokoto and Katsina states.

The attacks occurred amid ongoing military operations that have eliminated scores of bandits in recent months.

In Sokoto State, suspected bandits killed an imam and two other residents and abducted 12 people during an attack on Illela Dawagare village in Goronyo Local [Government](#) Area.

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Residents said about 30 armed men riding on nine motorcycles invaded the village around 12.20am on Sunday and operated for about 30 minutes, firing sporadically.

A resident, who spoke anonymously, said villagers tried to resist the attackers but were overpowered.

“They killed our imam, his neighbour and another resident before abducting 12 people, including eight women and four men,” he said.

The victims were identified as Mallam Liman Lawwali Na Ande, Lawwali Na Lami and Abdullahi Haruna.

The source added that after killing one of the victims, the attackers abducted his wife and two brothers.

Residents also accused security personnel of failing to respond to distress calls.

“We called for reinforcement and even offered to provide money for fuel, but nobody came,” the resident alleged.

The attack came days after suspected bandits reportedly killed a chief imam and abducted nine people in neighbouring Kuda-Kuda village in the same LGA.

Residents, however, clarified that the imams were not deliberately targeted. Rather, they were among those killed during the attacks on the affected communities.

Another resident said many villagers had resolved to spend their nights at the internally displaced persons (IDPs) camp in Goronyo for fear of further attacks.

In another incident in Sokoto, residents of Kurawa and neighbouring communities in Sabon Birni Local Government Area alleged that suspected bandits planted another improvised explosive device (IED) along the Sabon Birni-Kurawa road after attacking the area.

An eyewitness said the attackers killed Sabiu Yakubu, injured others and rustled livestock before fleeing.

Later on Sunday, a commercial motorcycle carrying Mudassir Salihu reportedly struck the suspected IED about one kilometre from Kurawa. Both the rider and passenger sustained serious injuries but survived.

A Volkswagen Golf also hit another suspected explosive, damaging the vehicle and injuring passengers.

Another resident said the attackers also shot a vigilante member, abducted three people—two of whom later escaped—and stole two cows.

Efforts to obtain a reaction from the spokesperson of the Sokoto State Police Command, DSP Ahmad Rufai, were unsuccessful as he did not respond to calls or text messages.

Bandits kill 6 in Katsina community

In Katsina State, six people were killed in a separate attack on Gidan Gaje, a farming settlement in Malumfashi Local Government Area.

Residents said armed men riding motorcycles stormed the community in the early hours of Thursday, shooting indiscriminately and forcing women and children to flee into nearby bushes.

The attackers were believed to be loyal to a notorious bandit leader, Babaro, who reportedly operates along the Kankara-Malumfashi axis.

Residents said the bandits had earlier warned farmers not to cultivate their lands during the current farming season.

A community leader said the gunmen had been moving freely around villages, monitoring farmers and enforcing their threats.

Daily Trust gathered that at least 20 people, including women and children, have been killed in similar attacks on farming communities in the area since the start of the farming season this year.

Newspapers

Residents said the latest violence has forced hundreds to flee their homes and abandon their farms, raising fresh concerns over food production and livelihoods.

Neither the Katsina State Government nor security agencies had issued an official statement on the attack as of the time of filing this report.

Efforts to reach the Commissioner for Internal Security and Home Affairs, Nasiru Mu'azu Danmusa, were unsuccessful.