

Suspected bandits kill three Police officers, vigilante leader, others in Taraba

Adam Mosadioluwa March 19, 2026



Suspected bandits on Thursday morning attacked and killed three police officers, a vigilante leader, and four others in the Tor-Damisa community of Donga Local Government Area of **Taraba State**.

Nigerian Tribune reports that the traditional leader of the area, HRH Zaki Ugondo Uma, had two weeks ago raised the alarm that bandits were regrouping around the area and had issued threats of attack, particularly on the IDPs, and called on the State Government to deploy security personnel to the area.

Meanwhile, locals told the Tribune that four residents also lost their lives in the attack, while many others were injured.

In a press statement released by the Taraba State Police Command and signed by its PPRO, Victor Mshelizah, the command said the officers died in active service while responding to a distress call.

"The Taraba State Police Command regrets to inform the general public of a tragic security incident that occurred following a distress report received from Zaki Orbanga, a resident of Tordamisa Akate Ward, who reported that armed men suspected to be bandits had attacked Tse Kwe Village.

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"Upon receipt of the information, a team of police officers led by the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of Donga, alongside operatives of the Special Force, were immediately mobilized and deployed to the scene to restore order and protect residents." The command stated.

The command, in the statement, narrated that upon arrival at the location, the suspected armed bandits opened fire on the police team, resulting in a fierce exchange of gunfire.

"On arrival at the location, the suspected armed bandits opened fire on the police team, resulting in a fierce exchange of gunfire. The police operatives responded swiftly and repelled the attackers.

"Regrettably, during the encounter, CPL Raphael Danjuma and PC Ebenezer Daniel sustained fatal gunshot wounds in the line of duty. Another officer, PC Samuel Bawa, was initially reported missing during the operation. A search party was subsequently organized, and his body was later recovered in a nearby bush. Additionally, the corpse of

Nutsa Tyav, a 60-year-old Chairman of the Vigilante Group in Tordamisa Village, was also recovered following the attack.” It narrated.

The statement also quoted the State Police Commissioner, CP Betty Enekpen, as expressing deep sorrow over the loss of the brave officers and the vigilante member who paid the supreme price while protecting the state and the nation at large.

While extending her condolences to the families of the deceased, the CP informed that security operations have been intensified in the area and that efforts are ongoing to track down and apprehend the perpetrators of the heinous attack.

The Command urged members of the public to remain calm and continue to cooperate with security agencies by providing timely and credible information that will assist in bringing the culprits to justice.