

Meanwhile, suspected bandits on Monday attacked Alkaliye village in Yabo Local Government Area of Sokoto State, killing five people, including a pregnant woman.

Alkaliye, a border community under Kilgori District, lies close to Silame Local Government Area and shares boundaries with parts of Kebbi State, an area notorious for frequent incursions by Lakurawa bandit groups.

According to local sources, the victims were killed on the spot, while two others sustained gunshot injuries and are currently receiving treatment at a nearby hospital.

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A community leader, who spoke on condition of anonymity for security reasons, lamented the repeated attacks, which he blamed on the absence of a security presence.

“These gunmen have been crossing from Kebbi State and Silame to attack our villages. They kill, kidnap, and even impose levies on communities.

“If we fail to pay within the time they give, they come back to destroy and kill,” he said, appealing to both state and federal governments to establish a permanent security outpost in the area.

When contacted, the Sokoto State Police Command spokesman, DSP Ahmad Rufa’i, said he had yet to receive a formal report of the incident but promised to make inquiries.

In a separate development, the Kebbi State Police Command arrested a suspected bandit in Illo District of Bagudo Local Government Area, recovering two locally made firearms and four cartridges.

According to a statement by the Police Public Relations Officer, Nafiu Abubakar, 27-year-old Buba Garba, a resident of Takalafiya village in Suru Local Government Area, was arrested on November 9 following an operation conducted with local vigilantes at Tungar Gwani village.

“On sighting the operatives, the suspect resisted arrest and used a knife to stab one of the vigilantes on the buttocks and left hand, inflicting serious injuries,” the police spokesman said.

The injured vigilante was immediately taken to a nearby medical facility and is currently receiving treatment.

During a search of the suspect, operatives reportedly found one locally made gun, one local barrel pistol, and four cartridges concealed in his possession.

The case has been transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department in Birnin Kebbi.