

# 18 killed as bandits, vigilantes clash in Katsina

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Bandits kingpin Turji refutes claim of top commander Baleri's capture (PC: Zagazola Makama, X)

Esha Aliku

At least 18 people have been killed following a clash between suspected bandits and community guards in Falele village, Daddara district of Jibia Local Government Area of Katsina State.

The incident occurred around 1:30 pm on Tuesday when bandits invaded the community, leading to a gun battle with local vigilantes.

While the Tuesday incident resulted in the loss of 15 lives, three casualties were earlier recorded when the vigilantes engaged the bandits.

Confirming the incident in a statement issued on Tuesday, the Commissioner for Internal Security and Home Affairs, Nasir Mua'zu, said, "The Katsina State Government has confirmed that a violent clash occurred in Falale and Kadobe villages in Jibia Local Government Area on March 17, 2026.

"The incident resulted in the loss of 15 lives, but security forces have since restored order and stabilised the situation.

"The vigilantes from the affected villages engaged repentant bandits, resulting in casualties of three. The incident triggered a violent reprisal that claimed additional lives in the communities.

"Security personnel from the Nigeria Police Force, Department of State Services, Civilian Watch, and community leaders worked together to bring the situation under control.

"This collaborative effort demonstrates the strength of our security partnership and community engagement. The joint operation prevented further loss of life and restored peace to the affected villages."

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The commissioner appealed to residents to remain calm and allow security forces to complete their investigation.

"We understand the pain and loss experienced by the affected families and remain committed to ensuring justice and preventing future incidents.

"The administration of Governor Malam Dikko Umaru Radda remains focused on restoring lasting peace in Katsina State. Nothing will distract us from our commitment to securing lives and property. We will remain resolute in our efforts," he added.

Mua'zu stressed that Jibia LG had remained peaceful for over one year due to strategic security measures implemented by the administration.

He called on residents to report suspicious activities to security agencies.

In a bid to bring peace to the state, the state government had extended amnesty to bandits to lay down arms and reintegrate with the people.

However, these negotiations have remained highly controversial and largely unstable, as critics argue that concessions embolden armed groups, undermine justice, and encourage further violence.

Several ceasefires have collapsed abruptly, with bandits returning to attack communities after disputes or alleged breaches of agreements.