

7 killed in fresh bandits' attack on Katsina community

Sayaya Community in Matazu Local Government Area of Katsina State are mourning the killing of seven people, including a woman, following a deadly bandits' attack in the early hours of yesterday.

Residents say the incident marks one of the most deadly attacks on it in recent months, saying it has shattered the fragile calm the community had begun to enjoy after the deployment of security forces to the area.

Witnesses said the attackers stormed Sayaya in the early hours of yesterday, firing indiscriminately and triggering widespread panic as residents flee their homes in search of safety.

"We were asleep when we heard heavy gunshots," a resident, who requested anonymity for security reasons, told journalists. "People were screaming, children were crying, and everyone was running in different directions. By the time the gunmen left, seven of our people were lying lifeless."

According to residents, the victims included farmers and traders who had hoped to re-

sume normal life after weeks of relative peace.

Locals alleged that the attackers were led by a feared bandit leader, Kachallah Fulani Muhammad, whose name has long been associated with deadly raids and abductions across communities in Matazu and neighbouring areas.

"This is the same man who has terrorised our villages for years," he is the one who abducted major General Rabe Abubakar Batsari RTD and his wife, another resident said. "Anytime we hear his name, we know trouble is coming," Alaramma jibrin said.

Residents linked the renewed violence to the recent withdrawal of troops attached to Operation Fansan Yamma, alleging that the attackers returned almost immediately after soldiers pulled out.

When contacted, the state police spokesperson, DSP Sa-dik Aliyu, said the command was yet to verify the information and promised to provide an update. However, as of the time of filing this report, no further response had been received.