

Terrorists invade Kwara again, scores killed including Forests Guards commander, community burns

• Gov AbdulRazaq mourns

By Demola Akinyemi,
Ilorin

Tragedy struck again in Nuku community, Kaiama Local Government Area of Kwara State, as terrorists invaded, killing several residents who were asleep wee hours on Friday.

Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq condemned the attack in a statement issued Friday by his Special Adviser on Communication and Strategy, Alhaji Bashir Adigun.

Reliable sources told Saturday Vanguard that during the onslaught, a Forest Guard commander and five of his team members were killed while attempting to resist the invasion. The attackers reportedly set fire to several residential buildings, destroyed motorcycles belonging to the guards, and burnt police patrol vehicles in the area.

The community has since been thrown into panic, with villagers fleeing in search of safety. As of press time, security forces had yet to intervene to restore peace and order.

A senior police officer at the Kaiama Divisional Headquarters, who requested anonymity, confirmed the incident, stating: "We have briefed the appropriate authorities." He urged residents to remain calm despite the devastating nature of the attack, adding: "God will help us through."

Governor's Response

Governor AbdulRazaq, in a separate statement issued in Ilorin, expressed deep sorrow over the deaths of the five forest guards who repelled the midnight assault. He praised their bravery and patriotism, noting that they fiercely neutralized dozens of terrorists during the incident.

The Governor emphasized that the attack

underscores the persistent threat posed by terrorists to local communities and urged military authorities to adjust their strategies in combating such groups.

"I commend the efforts of the security agencies in this theatre and urge them to do more," he said. "Nothing can truly compensate for the ultimate sacrifice of the fallen guards. Our condolences go to their families and communities.

They will forever remain our heroes."

He assured that the state government remains committed to supporting the families of the deceased and prayed for divine comfort and victory over terrorism.

Meanwhile, Governor AbdulRazaq has constituted the Kwara State Security Strategy Committee, comprising Kwara-born retired military generals and senior security officers. The committee includes:

Retired Major General G.A. Wahab (Chairman); Maj. Gen. Yemi Abidoye; Maj. Gen. Abubakar Ndalolo; Rear Admiral Aliyu Lawal; Air Commodore A.S.A. Buhari; AIG Aderemi Opadokun and Lt. Col. WA. Lawal

The Permanent Secretary (General Services), Shuaib Abdulganiyu (fcia), will serve as Secretary. The Governor is scheduled to meet with the committee later today, Friday, April 10, for its inaugural session.

2027: Opposition eyes united front

- SDP, NNPP vow to field strong presidential candidates
- PRP, ADC leaders meet

By Henry Umoru

ABUJA — Ahead of the 2027 presidential and general elections, opposition parties have expressed their determination to forge a united front against the ruling All Progressives Congress even leaders and stakeholders of the Peoples Redemption Party (PRP) and the African Democratic Congress (ADC) have met in Abuja as part of ongoing political realignment. The Social Democratic Party, SDP, and the New Nigeria Peoples Party, NNPP, particularly expressed confidence in their ability to field formidable presidential candidates despite internal crises and leadership disputes.

This is coming amid growing political uncertainty affecting some parties, especially the African Democratic Congress, ADC, and the SDP, where leadership tussles over the composition of their National Working Committees, NWC, remain unresolved.

The development has raised concerns over whether these parties — aside from the ruling All Progressives Congress, APC, and the newly registered Nigerian Democratic Congress, NDC — will be fully prepared to participate effectively in the 2027 elections. However, opposition parties insist they

are making strategic moves to present credible alternatives and possibly form a united front against President Bola Tinubu and the APC.

NNPP: We'll present credible candidate

Despite the exit of its 2023 presidential candidate, Senator Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso, the NNPP says it remains strong and will field candidates in 2027. National Secretary of the party, Dipo Olayoku, said:

"NNPP will present a formidable candidate in 2027. Although Senator Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso has left the party, we believe the NNPP has attained a level of prominence that will continue to attract credible candidates for all elections. Based on our manifesto, we remain committed to offering Nigerians real hope for a better future."

SDP: Strategic moves underway

On its part, the SDP said it was intensifying consultations and internal screening processes to ensure it produces a strong presidential candidate. National Publicity Secretary, Araba Rufus Aiyenigba, described the party as a growing political force with national appeal. "The SDP is currently the go-to party in Nigeria, considering its reach, influence, and the

quality of its leadership at national and sub-national levels", he said noting that the party has, in recent months, engaged key political stakeholders and groups, including Team New Nigeria (TNN), as part of efforts to strengthen its base.

The SDP also claimed it is gaining endorsements from key northern socio-cultural groups, including the Arewa Consultative Forum, ACF, Northern Elders Forum, and the Movement for Good Governance. According to Aiyenigba: "With growing dissatisfaction in parts of the North, the SDP is well positioned to harness this momentum." He further argued that rising insecurity, poverty, and economic

US evacuation confidence in Nigeria

By Luminous Jannamike

ABUJA — Former presidential candidate of the Labour Party, Peter Obi, has warned that the recent directive by the United States to evacuate its embassy staff from Nigeria over rising insecurity signals fading international confidence in the country's security system and leadership.

According to him, the move throws Nigeria's worsening security crisis into sharp global focus, raising fresh concerns about its impact on investor confidence, diplomatic relations, and an already