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42 killed in Zamfara, Plateau, Benue attacks



....Many abducted

By Peter Duru & Golok Nanmwa

Gunmen have killed no fewer than 42 persons in seperate attacks on Zamfara, Plateau and Benue states, while many travellers were abducted.

In Zamfara State, according to a security report prepared for the United Nations and seen by AFP, yesterday, travellers were ambushed by an armed group referred to locally as “bandits,” who killed “30 individuals, including civilians, hunters and a community protection guard,” the report said.

It noted that the suspected terrorists operating around the Dansadau axis of Zamfara State ambushed commuters travelling along the Magami-Dansadau road, killing 30 and abducting several others.

A resident of Magami, who pleaded anonymity for security reasons, said the incident occurred on Sunday between 4a m and 5p m when the attackers

incident occurred on Sunday between 7am, and 8pm, when the attackers opened fire on vehicles travelling along the notorious route.

According to him, so far, 10 dead bodies have been recovered.

“As you are aware, the road from Magami to Dansadau requires the escort of security agents to safely lead commuters to their communities.

”The commuters waited for about seven hours on Saturday after the security operatives came to escort them to Dansadau. While they were going on their way, suspected bandits launched an attack on their convoy, targeting the operational vehicle.

“The convoy reached Dogosatsin village when the bandits opened fire on the operational vehicle of the security forces who were escorting the commuters to Dansadau, killing both security agents and civilians, CJTF, and leaving several others with different degrees of injuries.

“We recovered 10 dead bodies and are still searching for others. Those injured were admitted to the Magami General Hospital but were later referred to Gusau.

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”However, they are still in the hospital because there is no escort yet to evacuate them to Gusau Hospital.

“The bandits also whisked away an unspecified number of people, as they were going to various villages in the area.

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”It took the tremendous efforts of the troops to chase the bandits into the bush with their firepower, which reduced the casualties of the incident.”

While the spokesperson of the Zamfara Police Command, Yazid Abubakar, said he was aware of the attack, he noted that casualty figures were still being verified at the time of filing this report.

The Gusau-Magami-Dansadau road has remained one of the most dangerous routes in Zamfara State, frequently plagued by banditry, kidnappings and deadly attacks by armed groups.