

Bandits kill 20 in Zamfara villages


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Suspected armed bandits have killed at least 20 people in attacks on Kuru-Kuru and Jarkuka villages in Anka local government area of Zamfara State.

The deadly raids came barely two weeks after at least 30 people were killed by suspected armed bandits and cattle rustlers in Bawar Daji village of the LGA.

Last week, troops deployed for Operation Sharar Daji said they had killed 21 armed bandits at Tungar Daji village in the LGA although they lost two of their officers in the gun battle.

Earlier, Governor Abdulaziz Yari Abubakar had given an order to the security operatives to shoot at sight anyone they found bearing illegal firearms or any kidnapper.

Residents told Daily Trust that armed bandits had earlier attacked Kuru-Kuru village and were planning to launch a fresh attack on another village nearby when the residents of Jarkuka village mobilized to offer help to those under attack at Kuru-Kuru.

“When the armed bandits learnt that residents of Jarkuka were mobilizing to offer help to their neighbours they intercepted and started shooting them indiscriminately, killing at least 20,” a resident, Ali Yusuf, said.

He said the attacks might be connected to the alleged involvement of the residents of the villages in the ongoing operations against armed bandits and suspected cattle rustlers in the local government area.

The spokesman of the state Police Command, DSP Muhammad Shehu, said the gunmen raided an illegal mining site and killed the miners, but said he could not give the actual number of casualties. He said the DPO and other security operatives were already in the village.