

Banditry: 11 killed in Katsina, Kaduna

From Tijjani Ibrahim (Katsina) & Ahmed Ali (Kafanchan)

A mob has killed three suspected bandits and set their bodies ablaze in Magamar Jibia town, Jibia Local Government Area of Katsina State.

The incident took place on Sunday night (around 11:25 pm) when unidentified gunmen invaded the town.

A resident told *Daily Trust* that the gunmen broke into the house of an unnamed man who raised an alarm and that the residents mobilised and confronted them.

A community leader in Jibia told *Daily Trust* that they received a report that the bandits were mobilising to launch an attack, and they informed all surrounding communities to be at alert.

"I saw the corpses of two of the suspected bandits

burnt beyond recognition and dumped at the Magama junction, but the third person, who was said to be in army uniform, was said to have been taken away by the policemen," he said.

In a related development, gunmen suspected to be bandits on Saturday night killed four men at Yar Marafa village, Yar Malami ward in Faskari Local Government Area of Katsina State.

According to a resident, those killed included Alhaji Lawal Damfuge, Samaila Namoali, Musdafa Senior and Ado Lafate.

The gunmen reportedly stormed the village on Saturday night and started shooting, thereby throwing the community into confusion.

Residents revealed further that the four victims were buried according to Islamic

rites on Sunday.

Katsina police spokesman SP Gambo Isah was yet to confirm the two incidents.

Similarly, armed bandits on Monday morning attacked Wawan Rafi II village in Zangon Kataf Local Government Area of Kaduna State, living two people dead.

The two persons killed were identified as Joshua Dauda and his seven-year-old son Philip Dauda. Also, seven houses, one car and a motorcycle were burnt in the attack.

In a press statement, the Commissioner for Internal Security and Home Affairs, Samuel Aruwan, said security patrols mobilised to the area forced the assailants to retreat into the forests. The troops recovered eight empty cases of 7.62mm ammunition at the scene of the attack.

"So far, two corpses have

been retrieved. The citizenry will be updated on further developments," he said.

When contacted, the Chairman Atypa Chiefdom Peace and Security Partnership Committee, Mr. John Bala Gora, said the numbers of those killed, according to Zangon Kataf Local Government Council, exceeded four people.

Gora said they received a message from the Council Secretary of Zangon Kataf local government, Elisha Sako, who gave the names of those killed as: Dauda Joshua, 54, Philip Dauda, 8, Francis Ayuba, 30 and Florence Denis, 3.

The Kaduna State Governor, Nasir el-Rufai, noted the reports with sadness and prayed for the repose of the souls of those killed in the attack while offering heartfelt condolences to their families.

5 vigilantes killed, scores injured as bandits attack market communities in Niger