

Bandits kill 11, set church on fire in Kaduna

From Mohammed Ibrahim Yaba,
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A building housing the Assemblies of God Church in Ungwan Gaida community, near Kurmin Kaso, Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State, has been set ablaze by armed bandits.

At least eight persons were killed in the attacks while several houses were torched.

Samuel Aruwan, Commissioner for Internal Security and Home Affairs, who confirmed the attacks, identified those killed as Samaila Gajere, Bawa Gajere, Bitrus Baba, Umaru Baba, Solomon Samaila, Sambo Kasuwa, Samuila Kasuwa, and Gideon Bitrus.

Aruwan said Governor Nasir El-Rufai condemned the attack on the place of worship, and directed the State Emergency Management Agency to carry out an urgent

assessment of the damage done by the invaders.

Aruwan also said troops of the Nigerian Navy "neutralised three bandits" and arrested two accomplices after repelling an attack on Wakwodna community, near Kasso village, still in Chikun LGA.

According to him, the troops stationed at the Kujama checkpoint foiled the attack at Wakwodna following a tip-off.

He said bandits fled into surrounding bushes on sighting the troops, and abandoned some rustled cattle, which were rounded up and returned to their owners.

"The troops arrested a suspected bandits informant, Kapido Halilu, and a logistics supplier, Umar Maipashi. Food and medical supplies meant for the bandits were confiscated. The suspects were taken into custody for further investigation," he said.

He said El-Rufai noted the report of the attack on Ungwan Gaida with sadness, and condoled the families of the slain citizens, as he offered prayers for the repose of their souls.

Similarly, gunmen have killed three herders in an attack on a settlement in Marraban Jos, Rigachikun, Igabi Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

The state commissioner for internal security and home affairs, who also confirmed the incident in another statement, said many cows were rustled in the attack.

Aruwan identified the deceased as Ibrahim Abubakar and Abdullahi Maitashi and Umar Abbas.

He added that after he received the report of the tragic incident, Governor Nasir El-Rufai expressed sadness and commiserated with the herders' families, as he prayed for the repose of their souls.