

NAF fighter jet kills banditry kingpin, followers in Katsina

● Police rescue 6 victims ● Bandits kill 2 vigilantes, abduct newlywed couple, others

From Tijjani Ibrahim,
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1 **A** notorious banditry kingpin, Abdulkareem Lawal alias Faca-faca, and many of his followers have been killed in airstrikes by the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) fighter jets on some bandits' enclaves in Safana Local Government Area of Katsina State.

Our correspondent learnt that the raids were carried out in the evening.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO)

in the state, Gambo Isah, confirmed yesterday that eight suspected bandits including Faca-faca were killed during the raid.

He also said the police Saturday night raided a terrorists' hideout at Unguwar Dako, Tandama village in Danja Local Government Area of the state where they rescued six kidnapped victims.

Isah gave the names of the rescued victims as Alhaji Garba DanMallam, 52; Rabi'u Idris, 45; and Abba Samaila, 38, who are all residents of Unguwar Nuhu.

Others are Yunusa Sani, 54; Ishaq Yakub, 40; and Danjuma Samaila, 45, all residents of Layin Sani village, Kafur.

2 Meanwhile, bandits have killed two members of a local vigilante group and abducted a newlywed couple and other residents of Shola Quarters in the Katsina metropolis.

Residents said the bandits invaded the area around 1:25am and operated for over an hour.

One of the sources said, "It was the vigilante members that even confronted the bandits

but in the process, two of them were killed and two others wounded."

He explained that the vigilante members had to retreat for their safety when the bandits overpowered them.

He said it was later that one body was retrieved while one of the injured persons rushed to the hospital died.

Explaining how the newlywed couple was kidnapped, a relative, Usman Masanawa, said the husband, Yusuf Bishir, called to inform him of the attack but there was

nothing he could do.

"We went there this morning; the bandits did not even enter the house through the entrance gate but they smashed the wall and got access into the house," Masanawa said.

He added that the number of residents abducted could not be ascertained but other residents said some houses were attacked and people abducted.

When contacted, the PPRO who responded via WhatsApp message, said officers were on an operation (on the matter)

and would communicate details later.

In another attack, bandits abducted 13 people from Natsinta village, in Jibia Local Government Area, which is a few hundred metres from the army barracks in Katsina.

A resident, whose uncle and two of his children were abducted, said the bandits had earlier abducted 26 people but when they got to where they parked their motorcycles, they took 13 with them and left the others.