

Riot in Katsina as bandits kill DPO's mother, brother

From Tijjani Ibrahim, Katsina

Residents of Danmusa town, headquarters of Danmusa Local Government Area of Katsina State on Tuesday took to the streets over an attack that claimed the lives of a divisional police officer's mother and brother.

The protesters were said to have set some buildings on fire, including that of a retired classroom teacher, whom they accused of being an accomplice of bandits.

A source in Danmusa told Daily Trust that the victims were attacked and killed at their residence in the early hours of Tuesday despite a "peace deal" that the community struck with the bandits.

"There was a charade of a peace deal entered into by the local government chairman in which the bandits were allowed to come into town, buy whatever they wanted and leave unharmed, while on their part, they promised not to attack us.

"But I tell you, that peace deal is a scam, it did not prevent them from kidnapping for ransom and even killing

victims," he said.

Another resident who pleaded anonymity identified the two persons killed as one Usman Lawal Karzaje, the younger brother to the DPO of a police station in Dutsi Local Government, alongside their mother.

"Before now, despite the peace deal, they kidnapped Alhaji Rabe Mainadi. After they collected ransom from him, they broke his arm; he is yet to recover from that.

"Secondly, they kidnapped the son of Alhaji Mani, collected N10m ransom and killed the victim thereafter. These are just a few examples of the situation we are in here," the source said.

The police spokesperson in Katsina, SP Gambo Isah, could not be reached for confirmation as of the time of filing this report as he did not respond to a text message and the line was unclear when he answered the call from our reporter.

Meanwhile, the Katsina State government said normalcy had returned to the town.

A statement issued by the Special Adviser to the Governor on Security Matters, Ahmed Ibrahim Katsina, said

security agents had begun an investigation to unravel the immediate and remote causes of the uprising.

"Sequel to the unfortunate incident of banditry attacks at Dan-Musa, in Dan-Musa LGA on 29th November 2022, leading to protest and wanton destruction of public property by some aggressive youth in the area, the Katsina State government, wishes to assure the general public that the security agencies are on top of the situation, as normalcy has since returned to the area.

"While the state government sympathizes with the families of the two victims, it will not condone any act of lawlessness, as security agencies have been directed to fish out the perpetrators and take appropriate action against them.

"In view of the foregoing, members of the public are hereby advised to go about their normal businesses, while security agencies are investigating the remote and immediate causes of the incident, with a view of averting similar incident in the future," the statement said.