

Bandits kill 10 in Benue, 5 in Katsina

From Hope Abah Emmanuel (Makurdi) & Tijani Ibrahim (Katsina)

Bandits have reportedly killed 10 people in Ukoosaa - Atam community of Borikyo Council ward in Ukum Local Government Area of Benue State.

This comes as bandits in their numbers have again attacked Sayaya community in Matazu Local Government Area of Katsina State, killing at least five people.

In the Benue attack, villagers said that the fresh killings took place on Monday in the community located one kilometre after Ayati rural

town where three persons were gunned down barely 24 hours earlier.

The villagers said that the bandits arrived on motorcycles and attacked a commercial tricycle (Keke) killing all the passengers and the driver on board.

The bandits were also said to have attacked another commercial motorcycle rider with passengers and killed all of them while opening gunfire at the same time on the surrounding houses.

"In the end, a total of 10 people were killed," a villager who preferred anonymity said.

The Benue State Special Adviser on Security & Internal Affairs, Joseph Har, said he was

aware of the ongoing clashes between banditry groups in the area.

Har, however, said his principal, Governor Hyacinth Alia, was working to nip in the bud the insecurity in that axis of the state.

Spokeswoman for the Benue Police Command, SP Catherine Anene, when contacted said she was not in town.

Meanwhile bandits in their numbers were said to have attacked Sayaya community in Matazu Local Government Area of Katsina State, killing at least five people.

The incident, which took place in the early hours of Tuesday came barely 24 hours after the unfortunate attack

on Maulud celebrants where at least 25 persons were reportedly killed.

Matazu and Musawa are neighbouring local government's and recall that some of the victims of the Maulud gathering attack were from the two LGAs.

A resident of Sayaya who said his father was among 5 killed told newsmen that the attackers conducted house to house raid in the community where they killed five and abducted others.

He said the terrorists have also rustled domestic animals and carted away other valuables during their operation.

Confirming the incident, the

Police spokesman in Katsina, ASP Abubakar Sadiq Aliyu, said: "On November 6, 2023, at about 0055 hours, armed bandits in their numbers, wielding dangerous weapons such as AK-47 rifles and shooting sporadically, attacked Sayaya village, Matazu LGA, Katsina State.

"Upon receipt of the report, immediately, operatives were mobilised to the scene, where they engaged the bandits in a gun duel and succeeded in repelling the attack.

"However, five people were shot dead, two injured, and five people kidnapped by the assailants. The injured were rushed to the hospital for immediate medical attention.