

Airstrike kills 7 Katsina villagers; bandits gun down 3 security men

From Tijjani Ibrahim, Katsina

Seven innocent civilians were said to have been killed on Saturday in a military airstrike in Yauni community, Zakka ward of Safana Local Government Area of Katsina State.

Daily Trust gathered that three other security personnel, including two police officers and an operative of the state-owned Community Watch Corps (CWC) were earlier killed in a gun duel with bandits.

A resident of the area who pleaded anonymity told our reporter that the incident was as a result of the local government

election which took place on Saturday in which the bandits had planned to attack voters in Zakka village.

Having got intelligence information about the bandits' plan, the security agents moved to avert its execution, leading to exchange of fire during which a police officer and a CWC operative lost their lives, while a third police officer who sustained injury later died.

"It was after that incident that the military fighter jet, which most likely came to offer reinforcement, dropped a bomb at Yauni community, south of Zakka, which led to the death of six members of a family, while

one woman sustained injuries," the source said.

This was not the first time in which residents were coming under terror attack from the military in Katsina State.

It could be recalled that in July, 2022, a military fighter jet dropped a bomb in Kunkunni village of Safana Local Government Area, killing at least two people and left nine others injured.

All efforts to get reactions to Saturday's attack from the police and military proved abortive.

However, Deutsche Welle radio of Germany which also reported the incident quoted some witnesses in its report.