

Bandits on renewed rampage in Katsina

From Abubakar Sadiq Moh'd (Zaria), Tijjani Ibrahim (Katsina), Salim Ibrahim (Kano) & Al-Mustapha A. Mustapha (Abuja)

Over 5,000 people fleeing bandit attacks are currently seeking refuge in Bakori town, the headquarters of Bakori Local Government Area in Katsina State, following incessant assaults by armed groups.

Residents of more than ten communities in Bakori and Faskari local government areas have suffered repeated attacks by armed bandits, involving

abductions, mass killings, and large-scale cattle rustling.

Community leaders and locals continue to live under constant threat, even as security operatives and local guards intensify their security operations. Despite these efforts, the cycle of violence persists, *Daily Trust* gathered.

The worst-hit villages include Guga, Anguwar Danmarka, Kandarawa, Anguwar Galadima, Gidan Sule, Gidan Chiwake, Gidan Dan Maye, Gidan Gagare, Gidan Sarkin Noma, and Gidan Nakuba.

Daily Trust gathered that in the early hours of Wednesday, gunmen attacked Dutsinma Local Government Area of the state and

abducted five persons including a businessman, Alhaji Babangida Maigoro. It was further gathered that two of the victims escaped while members of the community killed one of the attackers. It would be recalled that Dutsinma, which host a federal university has suffered several attacks, including abductions of students from the institution.

In recent years, these communities and others had endured attacks. Some of the assaults included an attack on Guga village in Bakori LGA in February 2022. Eight people were killed and several others abducted, including the village head. In another attack, up to 12

people were killed and 36 others kidnapped.

In February 2023, more than 40 people lost their lives in violent clashes between bandits and vigilantes following incidents of cattle rustling in the LGA.

In Faskari LGA, over 46 people, mostly elderly women and children were killed during coordinated attacks in communities such as Kadisau and Kabalawa in June 2020.

Most recently, in July 2025, security forces neutralised 30 armed bandits who had launched attacks on Kadisau, Raudama, and Sabon Layi. However, the counter-operations also resulted in the deaths of several security

personnel and civilians.

Daily Trust reports that among the frontline LGAs, only three, which include Jibia, Batsari and Danmusa are currently into peace agreements with bandits. It was, however, gathered that the peace deals were forced as the villagers had no option but to comply with the demands of the criminals.

During a visit by our correspondent to Bakori town on Tuesday, it was observed that displaced persons were being sheltered by relatives, good Samaritans, and the local government council. However, many are still roaming the streets without accommodation.