

Bandits kill 8, set houses ablaze in Niger

At least eight people, including two vigilantes, have been killed while 22 others were abducted in separate attacks on communities in Borgu and Mariga LGAs of Niger State.

Residents told *Daily Trust* that the attacks, which began on September 15, 2025, have forced many farmers to flee their homes.

On Friday, bandits stormed Chikanda village in Borgu LGA, killing five people and kidnapping 14 others. Residents said the village lies along the Tugan-Zana-Dekara road.

A 14-year-old girl, Fatima Ahmadu, was also shot in the leg during the attack and is receiving treatment at the Babanna Primary Health Care Centre.

Witnesses said after residents fled, the attackers burnt houses and valuables, including motorcycles, sewing machines, grinding machines, farm implements, and livestock.

The same day, two vigilantes, Junaid Mohammed and Bello Muhammad, were ambushed and killed by bandits at Kwanan-Rogo, Kontonkoro-Bena road in Mariga LGA while escorting residents.

A day earlier, a farmer, Bala Danko, was killed while working on his farm in the same area.

Residents lamented that killings and abductions have become daily occurrences in the Kontonkoro axis, spreading into parts of Kontagora and Mariga LGAs.

Despite the rising attacks, locals acknowledged efforts by security operatives and vigilantes, noting that several bandits were recently killed in an encounter.

A resident, Adamu Usman, said bandits were sighted on Saturday night crossing the Kontagora-Tegina road towards Ragada Ramu village in Mashegu LGA, where several people were abducted.

He added that their movements continued until Sunday morning.

Another resident, Alhassan Umar, said on Monday eight farmers were kidnapped at Shadadi village on their way to the farm near Shiyan Taukin Sarki and taken to Kunai forest.

Efforts to reach the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Bologi Ibrahim, were unsuccessful, while the State Police Command spokesperson, SP Wasiu Abiodun, said he would verify the incident, but had yet to respond at the time of filing this report.

rise to the influx of displaced persons from bandit-ravaged states and the ongoing military offensive in neighbouring Benue, which has driven some criminal groups into Nasarawa.