

17 bandits, others killed in fresh Katsina attacks

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More than 20 persons are feared killed and scores of others wounded as bandits attacked four communities in Katsina State. The affected communities are Tsabuwa in Batsari Local Government Area and Gurbi and two others in Kankara Local Government Area.

According to the residents, three of the attacks occurred in the early hours of yesterday and those of Tsabuwa started on Wednesday night and lasted till yesterday morning.



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It was learnt that in Gurbi, 17 bandits lost their lives to superior firepower of security agents and many others were injured. Four residents of the community were, however, killed by the marauding group. The bodies of five of those killed were ferried from Gurbi to the Kankara Police station. In Tsabuwa, some people were also reportedly killed and others injured during the attacks. The exact number of victims was being debated at press time.

It was the same situation in the two other communities in Kankara, where the attackers were said to have killed some residents, looted property and set some houses ablaze.

The police, in a statement issued to reporters, yesterday by the spokesman of the state command, SP Gambo Isah, said the bandits who stormed Gurbi, armed with AK47 rifles, were resisted shortly after they began the attacks.

“Today at about 03:00hrs, a distress call was received that bandits in their numbers armed with AK 47 rifles stormed Gurbi village, Kankara LGA of Katsina State, killed four persons and rustled a large number of domestic animals after they received a fierce resistance by the local vigilance groups.” In response, the Commissioner of Police, Sanusi Buba, directed the divisional police officer of Kankara Division to lead Operation Puff Adder in collaboration with vigilance groups to the scene.

“The bandits were engaged in a shootout along with some vigilance members. The team succeeded and killed 17 suspected bandits and recovered 80 cows, 108 sheep and a donkey from the hoodlums earlier carted away from the village and other neighbouring villages. “During the attack, the bandits killed one Alhaji Sanusi of Yar-Bakaje, Akilu Isuhu of Bawa Gidan Mai Ruwa, Nana Husaini of Unguwar Farin Dutse, Gurbi village and Muntari Sama’ila of Gidan Korau village, all of Kankara Local Government Area, while three other persons sustained injuries.

“Some of the bandits managed to escape with gunshot wounds. “Operatives are combing the nearby bushes for the arrest of the fleeing bandits and recovery of their operational weapons. An investigation is ongoing,” the statement read. On February 14, more than 30 residents were killed in Dankar and Tsauwa villages in Batsari Local Government Area by suspected bandits.

The police, during an operation on February 24, killed five suspected bandits who were terrorising Katsina and the neighbouring Zamfara State. The security agents assured the people that they were working round the clock to ensure that the bandits and their activities were effectively tackled, for peace to return to Katsina that has witnessed upsurge in banditry in recent time.



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