

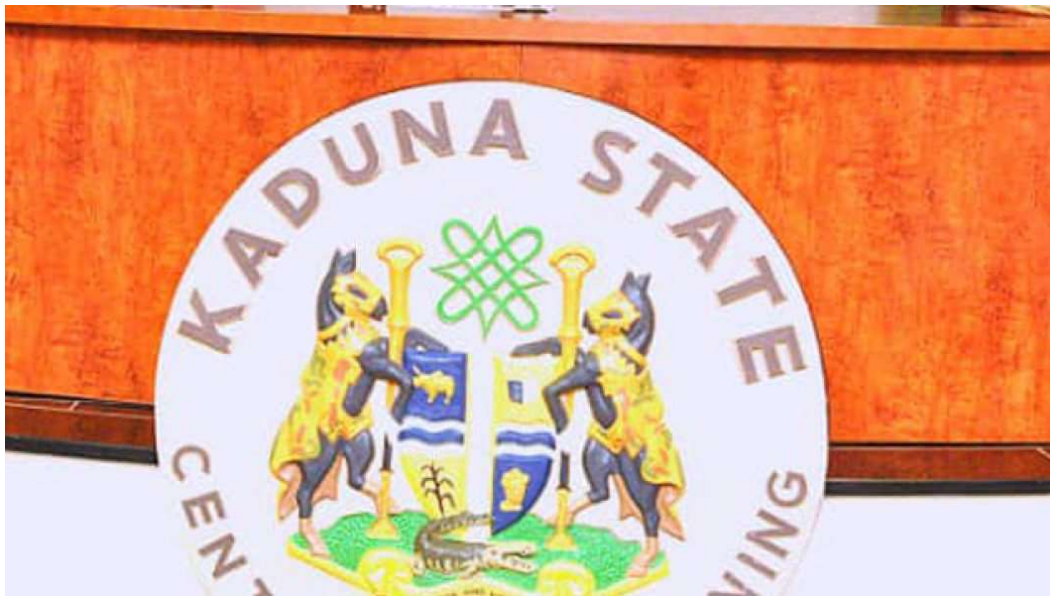
Metro

# Death toll rises to 37 in Southern Kaduna as youths burn herders' settlements

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- Scores feared dead in Katsina terrorist attack, Amnesty, police condemn killings
- Military pledges review of operations to check security breaches



*Kaduna*

The casualty figure of the violence in Jema'a and Kaura councils of Kaduna State has increased to 37 with the spillover of the crisis to Zangon Kataf Council, as youths in the communities set herders settlements ablaze.

Following the spread, the state government has condemned the fresh attack in Zangon Kataf and directed the council officials to ensure peace and order in the area.

Commissioner for Internal Security and Home Affairs, Samuel Aruwan, said three corpses were discovered in Jema'a and Kaura councils, which raised the number of casualties to 37.

He condemned the spillover of the crisis in Zangon Kataf, where the settlements of herdsmen, were razed, adding: "Security agencies reported that they

discovered three corpses of some citizens killed by a mob on Monday in Kaura and Jema'a councils.

“The corpse around the Kagoro Roundabout has been identified as the remains of one Ibrahim Isiyaku (Danasabe) of No. 143, Bauchi Street, Kafanchan.

“Two other corpses recovered at Binzom, behind the Kafanchan Campus of the Kaduna State University (KASU), have also been identified as that of Ibrahim Rilwanu and Lawali Zubairu of No. 5, Emir Road, Kafanchan.

This brings the death toll in Sunday's attacks and the violence to 37.”

BESIDES, terrorists have reportedly killed an unspecified number of people in five communities of Kankara Council of Katsina State.

Although the actual number of those killed was unknown at the time of filing this report, sources in the area, however, said the victims were many just as The Guardian learnt that rivalry between two herder groups that accused each of cattle rustling, caused the violence.

The sources also said that scores of others sustained injuries, even as victims' bodies were still being discovered in Gidan Dankunda, Kungiya, Gidan Kurty Centan Dangera and Gidan Malumfashi.

ALSO, Amnesty International, Nigeria has condemned the killing of 25 villagers and destruction of their property by herders at Maraba, Adan and Agban Gida communities in Kagoro Village of Kaura Council of Kaduna State.

The development compelled the state government to impose curfew in parts of the state. Commissioner for Internal Security and Home Affairs, Samuel Aruwan, said: “Following advice from security agencies, the Kaduna State Government has declared a 24-hour curfew in Jema'a and Kaura councils to enable security agencies to stabilise the areas, save life and property and restore law and order.”

But Country Director, Amnesty International Nigeria, Ossai Ojigho, lamented that despite the intervention of security officers, the attack in Kagoro lasted over two hours, and displaced several households in three communities.

Meanwhile, state chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Reverend Joseph Hayab, stressed the need for self-defence and advised Governor Nasir El-Rufai to immediately admit that he could no longer secure the state, and allow the citizens to defend themselves against insecurity.

However, the police and residents of Kankara Council of Katsina State differed on the attack on Tuesday evening.

While the police confirmed the attack but added that no life was lost, residents said no fewer than five persons were killed and several others injured.

MEANWHILE, the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Lt-Gen Faruk Yahaya, has assured that the operation in the North would be reviewed regularly to meet contemporary security challenges.

Yahaya stated that the Nigerian Army would continue to strive to meet the security expectations of all Nigerians by providing a safe and secure environment for the socio-economic development of the nation.

He gave the assurances, yesterday while declaring open the Senior Command and Leadership Seminar organised by the Department of Army Training at the 3 Division Headquarters of the Nigerian Army in Jos, Plateau State.

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