

Policeman, 34 Others Killed In Kaduna, Katsina Attacks

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A policeman and 34 other people have been killed in separate attacks by bandits on vigilantes, residents and clashes between locals and herders in Kaduna and Katsina states respectively.

1 In Kaduna State, the death toll from last Saturday's attack and reprisal has risen from 10 to about 17. The victims included a police officer in communities of Zangon-Kataf in the southern part of Kaduna State.

2 Also, in Katsina State, 18 villagers were killed and 15 others injured in a clash between bandits and vigilantes in Kankara communities.

LEADERSHIP had earlier reported that about 10 corpses were discovered following the said attack.

Trouble started in the area Thursday last week when a young herder was allegedly tied to a tree and macheted to death by some locals around Ungwan Juju.

It was further gathered that the situation became compounded Saturday when a misunderstanding arose between security operatives and some Fulani at a checkpoint in Ungwan Wakili which led to a Fulani man and a policeman being shot at the checkpoint.

Also, later that evening, a group of local youths who went fishing were attacked and one of them was said to



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had been macheted to death by the retaliating herders.

A senior military source from the area told LEADERSHIP on condition of anonymity that, "On Thursday last week, one Umar Sambo (a herder) was killed while he was returning from grazing his cattle around Ungwan Juju in Zangon Kataf LGA.

"The killers tied the young herder up, macheted him to death and hid the corpse in an unknown location. When his brother, identified as Safiyanu, could not find him, he reported to the security agencies, who then launched a search operation. His body was finally discovered at Ungwan juju," the source said.

He said, the security situation which they were making efforts to manage, became compounded Saturday evening, when there was a clash between security operatives and some Fulani at a checkpoint in

Ungwan Wakili, which led to the death of a Fulani man and a policeman.

According to him, "Ungwan Wakili village of Atyap Chiefdom in Zangon Kataf LGA was attacked by unidentified persons around 8:40 pm on Saturday, in an apparent reprisal following the killing of the herder earlier mentioned.

"Another suspected immediate cause of the Saturday night attack was the accidental shooting of a herder by a policeman at Ungwan Wakili Junction, the burning of herders' motorcycles and the mob action which followed," he said.

He however said that troops of "Operation Safe Haven" mobilised to the village to repel the attack, but about 16 to 17 persons were already killed, with seven persons wounded. The wounded were taken to Zonkwa General Hospital for treatment.

"Also worthy of note is that, after a policeman accidentally shot and injured a herder and a colleague at the checkpoint at Ungwan Wakili Junction, a mob action occurred in Ungwan Wakili.

"While the police evacuated the area, a crowd of locals and herders gathered at the scene, and in the confrontation that followed, one local was killed. Two motorcycles belonging to herders were burnt, while the attack on Ungwan Wakili village occurred a few hours later," the security source explained.