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Bandits kill 30, abduct many, burn houses in Kaduna villages

•Kaduna constitutes committee over southern Kaduna conflicts

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No fewer than 30 people were killed with several others abducted as bandits attacked nine communities of Giwa Local Government, Kaduna State in the early hours of Friday.

Kaduna State Police Command's Public Relations Officer (PPRO), ASP Muhammad Jalige, confirmed the incident Friday evening.

Jalige said he was waiting for the details of the incident from the Divisional Police Officer, Giwa and the Area Commander Zaria.

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However, Mansur Ibrahim, a member of Vigilante Group in Dillalai, one of the

communities affected by the attack told our reporter that the incident happened on Thursday night up till early hours of Friday.

He added that, the bandits who attacked the villages also burnt houses and vehicles and went away with over 100 cows.

“The villages affected were Dillalai, Zango Tama, Kaya, Barebari, Anguwan Bakko, Gidan Alhajin Kida, Kadanya and Durumi among others.

“Dillalai was worst affected by the attack. There, 15 people were killed, five commercial trucks and five houses were burnt and the bandits also burnt a church at Zangon Tama

“About 15 people also died in the other communities, some of them died in the hospital,” he said.

Ibrahim said some of the victims who sustained major gunshot injuries were receiving treatment at Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital Shika-Zaria.

Kaduna constitutes committee over southern Kaduna conflicts

As a way of arresting incessant attacks, the Kaduna State Government has constituted a joint committee to look into the immediate and remote causes of the recurrent violent conflicts among communities in Jema’a, Kaura and Zangon Kataf local government areas.

The Deputy Governor of the state, Dr Hadiza Balarabe, who constituted the committee, gave it one week to submit its report.

The committee will be chaired by the Administrator of Kafanchan Municipal Authority, Mrs Phoebe Sukai Yayi, with the chairmen of Jema’a, Kaura and Zangon Kataf as members.

Other members of the committee are representatives of Jama’a tul Nasir Islam (JNI), the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), and the affected communities.

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The setting up of the committee which was done on Thursday, followed a peace

dialogue with stakeholders from Jema'a, Kaura and Zangon Kataf local government areas towards finding a lasting solution to the incessant violent conflicts in the areas.

The dialogue, which was held at Kafanchan, was attended by elected government officials, traditional rulers, community leaders from affected communities, leaders of the two religious bodies, CAN and JNI as well as heads of security agencies, comprising the Nigerian Army, Nigerian Police Force, and the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps.

While constituting the committee, the Deputy Governor mandated members to look into the immediate and remote causes of the conflicts, recommend measures to be taken by both government and various ethnic groups, leading to peaceful and harmonious coexistence among them.

Balarabe also directed the three local government chairmen to resume the weekly meeting of the local government security committees as instituted by the state government, which will serve as a forum to discuss security issues and proactively tackle those problems before they escalate.

The deputy governor appreciated the sacrifice of the security agencies who are working round the clock to ensure the safety and protection of lives and property and tackle criminality in Southern Kaduna.

She also condoled them over the unfortunate killing of some of their personnel during the attacks and prayed for the repose of the souls of the officers who paid the supreme price in the course of duty.

The Deputy Governor disclosed that the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) has been directed to provide relief materials to victims of the attack, adding that government would further provide relief allowance to those affected from the Riot Damages Fund after documentation by the relevant government agencies.

Earlier, the Commissioner of Internal Security and Home Affairs, Mr. Samuel Aruwan stated that the position of Kaduna State Government is that both farmers and herders should always recourse to the law.

According to him, "as we always stated, when farmers have issues with herders, the position of the government is that they should report to the security agencies, and not to resort taking the law into their hands. Similarly, when herders have issues with anybody while grazing, they should never take revenge but report to the security