

# El-Rufai, CAN sad as bandits kill 28 in Southern Kaduna



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Bandits have killed 28 residents of Malagum and Sokwong communities in Kaura Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

Governor Nasir El-Rufai and the **Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN)** have condemned the killings.

*The Nation* gathered that the killings occurred around 11 p.m on Sunday and lasted hours without any security presence while the bandits razed houses in three villages.

In a statement yesterday, Commissioner for Internal Security and Home Affairs, Samuel Aruwan said Governor El-Rufai was deeply saddened by the killings.

He said: “The Kaduna State government has sent heartfelt condolences to the Malagum and Sokwong communities in Kaura Local Government Area.

“The military and other security agencies reported that bandits attacked the locations and killed several citizens while burning houses and other properties.

“Governor El-Rufai expressed deep sadness at the report of the incident and prayed for the repose of the souls of those killed, while offering condolences to their families.

“The governor condemned the attacks as inhuman, considering the efforts of government, security forces, the traditional institution, and other critical stakeholders within the last week.

“The governor has also directed the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) to urgently provide relief materials to the communities.

“An urgent security intervention is being conducted by the Defence Headquarters’ Operation Safe Haven as the Commander – also the GOC of 3 Division of the Nigerian Army – Maj.-Gen. Ibrahim Ali, and the Sector 7 Commander, Colonel Timothy Oporum, are presently in the location.

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“The Kaduna State government will make public further details on the incident as it receives feedback from the security forces.”

Though the commissioner did not give the casualty figures, CAN, in a statement by its Kaduna State Chairman, Rev. John Joseph Hayab, said the attackers killed 28 persons.

The statement, titled: “Killers of Southern Kaduna People Are Yet To Be Neutralised,” reads: “The Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Kaduna State Chapter is mourning the death of over 28 innocent defenceless people of the Mallagum community in the Kagoro area who were brutally slaughtered last night.

“This massacre has further proven that the killers of the Southern Kaduna people have not yet been neutralised, as claimed.

“The Federal Government and the security agencies must not let the killers escape. Those who committed this evil must be fished out, arrested, and brought to face justice.

“These renewed killings may be a strategy to scare the people from exercising their rights and to further increase fear and impoverish them. Accordingly, CAN condemns this barbaric act in the strongest terms but appeals for calm, calling on the government and security to rise to the duty of protecting lives and property.”

Also, Labour Party’s (LP’s) National Secretary Umar Farouk Ibrahim Mai Rakumi told reporters in Kaduna that the killings happened in its major strongholds, like in some other parts of the country, to demoralise its supporters.

He said: “Our great party has noticed with dismay in recent time the spate of killings of our party supporters in Kaduna State, particularly in southern Kaduna, which is one of our strongholds and the constituency of our governorship candidate, Jonathan Asake. This is becoming a source of concern.

“We must rise to the occasion. We are calling on the Kaduna State government and the security agents to bring an end to this heinous act. Just last week, our great party lost eight members in Kaura Local Government Area and Zangon Kataf Local Government Area.

“These series of killings within a short time is highly condemnable and insensitive, especially in this festive period.

“Our great party strongly condemns these killings and we cannot continue folding our arms, seeing our members getting killed on daily basis. As such, we call on the Kaduna State government to do all it takes to bring the perpetrators of this heinous acts to book.

“The killing of the amiable Women Leader of Labour Party in Kaduna State, Mrs. Victoria Chintex, is still fresh in our minds and we will follow up with her gruesome murder till Kaduna State government apprehends the culprits. Her husband, who was attacked in the process, is still receiving treatment as we wish him speedy recovery.

“The Labour Party views all the killings in our major strongholds in Kaduna State and some other parts of the country as a calculated attempt to demoralise our supporters.”