

Air strikes kill ‘20 bandits, five vigilance’ members in Zamfara



The **Nigerian Army** has killed over 20 bandits in air strikes in Maraya and Wabi villages, Maru Local Government Area of Zamfara State.

The operation, which took place on Saturday, also resulted in the deaths of five vigilance members due to their failure to comply with withdrawal orders.

According to Zagazola Makama, a publication on the Lake Chad region, the air strikes were followed by a ground mission on Sunday by the toops of Operation Fansan Yanma.

The mission confirmed the death of the bandits and destruction of several motorcycles and other equipment, the publication said.

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“Unfortunately, five vigilante members were killed, while two others sustained injuries and are receiving treatment in the hospital. A few others sustained minor injuries and did not require hospitalisation,” the publication said.

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The leader of the vigilante group has taken “full responsibility” for the casualties, admitting that some members disregarded instructions to withdraw from the outskirts of the village before the air strike.

“He admitted that despite being informed of the imminent air operation, some of the vigilante youths insisted on pursuing the fleeing bandits and were still within the target area when the aircraft struck,” the publication added.

NAF spokesman, Air Commodore Ehimen Ejodame, confirmed the incident in a statement yesterday.

In February, a Nigerian Air Force fighter jet killed six members of a family following an air strike targeting armed gangs in Katsina State.

Sources said the jet dropped a bomb on a cluster of huts, on the outskirts of Zakka village, in Safana district.