

Bandits kill 19 in Kaduna

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BANDITS stormed Kutemeshi village in Birnin Gwari Local Government Area and Kujeni village in Kajuru Local Government Area of Kaduna State, on Saturday, killing 19 people.

The bandits had reportedly left several others with bullet wounds as well as set many houses and a church building ablaze in the communities.

- ① The death record showed that 14 people were killed in Birnin Gwari and five in Kajuru local government areas, respectively.
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The state Commissioner for Internal security and Home Affairs, Samuel Aruwan, said: "On a sad note, the Kaduna State government has received reports from security agencies about the killing of 19 indigenes of Birnin Gwari and Kajuru local government areas of Kaduna Central senatorial district.

"They were killed by bandits in Kutemeshi village in Birnin Gwari and Kujeni village in Kajuru, and several others were left with bullet wounds. Both attacks occurred on Saturday. Some shops were also looted with valuables carted away.

"Some of the injured per-

sons have been moved to a neighbouring state of Kute-meshi for medical attention, while others are in transit to an orthopaedic hospital in Kaduna.

"So far, 14 corpses have been recovered from Kute-meshi. The Kaduna State government will provide an update on emerging development.

"In Kujeni village, the attackers razed many houses, storehouses stocked with foodstuff, warehouses loaded with building materials and a church building.

"Governor Nasir el-Rufai, who has been monitoring the security situation at the locations since Saturday

morning, expressed sadness over the attacks.

"The governor, who con-doled with families that lost their loved ones, offered prayers for the repose of their souls and a speedy recovery for the injured.

"He further directed the Kaduna State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) to urgently provide relief materials to the affected communities.

"The government and security agencies are following up a reported attack of Sunday morning on Kikwari village of Kajuru Local Government Area and will provide an update as soon as feedback is received."