

# Bloodbath In Zamfara As Vigilantes Storm Market, Execute Bandits

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THERE was bloodbath in Zamfara State on Friday as some vigilantes stormed Dansadau market in Maru Local Government Area and killed scores of suspected bandits in an execution-style manner.

It was gathered that the vigilantes from Ruwan Tofa and other neighbouring communities carried out the massacre to avenge the killing of three farmers in the area.

A trader who witnessed the incident, Bilyaminu Dansadau, stated that because of the development, many traders had deserted the livestock and grains market.

“From where I was standing, I could see the bodies of the slain bandits in almost every corner of the market.

“As I am talking to you, I am right inside my house. My house is close to the market. We are afraid of the consequences that might follow. In fact, some people have started fleeing to the neighbouring communities.

“The bandits had earlier blocked Gusau-Dansadau Road and forced people to suspend their travels. Commercial drivers plying the road are currently on strike over incessant kidnappings and armed robberies by the bandits.

“When the local vigilantes arrived on Friday, they blocked all escape routes in the community. Some of them stationed themselves at all the exit points of the community while the others headed towards the livestock section of the market to carry out the executions,” he stated.

A resident, Alhaji Yau Dansadau, said some of the embattled bandits took refuge in shops and police stations as well as residential buildings.

As of the time of filing this report, it was gathered that security personnel had been deployed in the area.

The state Commissioner for Security and Home Affairs, Alhaji Abubakar Mohammed Dauran, confirmed the incident adding that security men had been deployed to the area.

## Matawalle suspends district head for conferring chieftaincy title on bandits' ammunition supplier

Zamfara State governor, Bello Matawalle, has suspended the district head of Badarawa in Shinkafi Emirate Council, the Sarkin Kudun Badarawa, Alhaji Surajo Namakkah Ibrahim, for conferring the traditional title of 'Durumbu' on a military officer who was arrested for selling ammunition to bandits in Shinkafi Local Government Area of the state.

The governor said he was sad to receive a report that the military officer attached to Shinkafi general area was arrested for selling ammunition to bandits operating in the area and was even bestowed with a chieftaincy title by the district head.

In a statement by his Director General, Media, Yusuf Idris Gusau, on Friday, Matawalle reiterated that the government would not tolerate anything capable of destroying the peace and reputation of the state.

He said the government would ensure that anybody found wanting in anyway was dealt with accordingly. The governor said the suspension of the district head was indefinite because the conferment of the traditional title was not borne out of any significant contribution to the development of the area.

## 7 security agents arrested for banditry in Zamfara

The Zamfara State police command has arrested seven security personnel for aiding and abetting banditry in the state. This was made known by the Commissioner for Information, Alhaji Ibrahim Magaji Dosara, while briefing newsmen in his office on Thursday. Dosara said "the state government has just received a report from the police on the arrest of seven security agents involved in aiding and abetting banditry activities across the state."

The commissioner stated that the suspects had been interrogated and had confessed to the crime.

According to him, the suspects confessed to having been sabotaging military operations in the state by sharing intelligence, supplying arms and ammunition, military uniforms and other facilities to bandits "to prevent our gallant soldiers from conquering the bandits."

Dosara said "this is why it took the Nigerian military and other security agencies fighting the bandits long to defeat them."

He said the suspects had been handed over to the appropriate authorities for further necessary actions.

The commissioner said: "We feel obliged not to disclose their identities, as the security authorities concerned are acting on the matter.

“One of the suspects was arrested in connection with fraternising with suspected bandits and supplying them with ammunition.

“In the course of his arrest, the suspect was caught in possession of 20 rounds of 62mm live ammunition at the point of handing over to the buyer, one Kabiru Bashiru of Maniya village, a suspected active bandit, having received advance payment of N100,000 from the buyer.”

He said the second suspect from Sokoto was caught by detectives while supplying military uniforms and kits to suspected bandits.

“Nine military bulletproof, four sets of military camouflage uniforms, five pairs of military hand gloves, two first bank ATM cards, one Nigerian Army I.D. card and one Samsung android handset were found in his possession.”