

20 persons killed in Sokoto market as police confirm killings of Fulanis

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NO fewer than 20 persons have been killed by suspected armed bandits who attacked a market at Ungwanalle in Sabon Birni Local Government Area in the Eastern Senatorial District of Sokoto State.

Sources in the village said the incident occurred around 5 p.m on Friday and that several persons were injured with most of them currently receiving treatment at the General Hospital in Sabon Birni, while others with life-threatening injuries were taken to the state capital for better care.

A former council chairman of Sabon Birni Local Government, Abdullahi Tsamaye, confirmed the attack to newsmen.

He said the assailants came in large number into the market and started shooting sporadically aiming at anybody in sight and in the process killed more than 20 persons, burned vehicles and destroyed several other properties.

Also speaking, the Special Assistant to the Minister of Police Affairs, Idris Gobir, confirmed the incident, saying about 22 people died in the attack, including traders from Sokoto town who were in the village for business transaction.

Gobir further said about 35 people are currently in various hospitals receiving treatment from the wounds sustained during the attack.

Efforts to get the reaction of the Sokoto State Police Command was not successful as the command's spokesman, ASP Abubakar Sanusi, could not be reached as at the time of filling this report.

Meanwhile, the state police command has confirmed that a local vigilante group, popularly called Yan Sakai, had on Thursday afternoon opened fire on Fulanis in Mammade market, Gwadabwa local government area killed no fewer than nine of them with many others sustaining injuries.

The spokesman of the command, Assistant Superintendent of Police Abubakar Sanusi, told our correspondent on telephone that the police have identified the perpetrators of the crime.

He said investigation is ongoing and the police are on the trail of the identified members of the Yan Sakai that allegedly carried out the crime at Mammade village.

He said no arrest had been made yet, but the police would ensure the perpetrators did not escape justice.

He said nine persons were killed and several others injured receiving treatment at different medical centres across the state.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the local government, Aminu Aya, while confirming the development, said the Yan Sakai came from the neighbouring Goronyo Local Government Area, but he could not ascertain whether they were residents of that area or not.

He said the Fulanis were from the neighbouring communities and came to the market to buy food items, among other things.

The chairman said the incident occurred around 3pm on Thursday when the market was filled with business owners and buyers.