

11 killed as bandits invade farms in Zamfara community

ABOUT 11 locals have been killed as bandits attacked Dangulbi community in Maru Local Government Area (LGA) of Zamfara State.

Sources told **Channels Television** that the incident occurred on Sunday afternoon when the terrorists loyal to a notorious kingpin, Damina, attacked farmers on their farmland. The attack also left several

others unaccounted for. Dangulbi is about 100km away from Gusau, the Zamfara State capital.

Spokesperson for the Zamfara State police command, Mohammed Shehu, confirmed the casualty figure to **Channels Television** on Monday morning via a telephone chat.

He said police authorities have since deployed a reinforcement team in the area to restore calm and normalcy in the community.

According to Shehu, the police tactical operatives have begun a confidence-building patrol in the affected community.

"The one at our disposal is 11 people [killed] and the command has already sent a reinforcement team to the affected community and the reinforcing team has been able to return normalcy in the area," the police spokesperson said.

He added that: "They [police team] are currently on

confidence-building patrol and there is relative normalcy in that axis."

In separate interviews with **Channels Television**, locals lamented that Dangulbi and surrounding communities have been experiencing a series of attacks by bandits in the last few days.

A resident of Maru LGA, Saifullahi Ibrahim, said the bandit demanded N2 million levy from the community in order to allow them to cultivate their farmlands

in the rainy season, adding that the people did as requested.

"The wave of attacks on our communities started about three days ago when a bandit kingpin called Damina asked our people to pay N2 million to him to allow us to cultivate our lands," Ibrahim narrated.

He said Kango, which is another village just about two kilometres away from Dangulbi, was attacked last Friday and seven persons

were reportedly killed.

"He [Damina] attacked Kango village, a two-kilometre settlement away from Dangulbi, and killed seven people, then yesterday [Sunday], in the afternoon, he proceeded to Dangulbi environs when people were on their farms working.

"They [the terrorists] rounded them up and 14 people were confirmed killed on their farms, while some persons are missing."