

17 corpses found after bandits attack Kaduna community

Govt declares 24-hour curfew in four villages

Muhammad Sabiu | Kaduna

AT least 17 corpses have been found after bandits attacked a community in Southern Kaduna on Saturday night and Sunday afternoon.

A resident of the area who pleaded anonymity told newsmen on Sunday that among those killed was a police officer and 10 other residents of the community.

The source said: "First, a Fulani man and a policeman were shot dead at a checkpoint at Ungwan Wakili.

"The situation became worse in the evening when some fishermen were attacked and one was hacked to death.

"Following this, a dusk-to-dawn curfew was imposed on the troubled communities of Ungwan Juju, Mabuhu, Ungwan Wakili, Zango Urban, Angwan Wakili, Angwan Juju and Mabuhu communities in Atyap chieftdom."

Speaking further, the source said: "Yesterday, March 11, at about 4:45p.m, I got informed that security personnel

at a checkpoint in Angwan Wakili tried to stop a group of men who were on motorcycle, but they tried to pick a fight with the mobile police officers.

"One of the officers was hit with a stick by the men and the officer shot one of them in his leg.

"In retaliation, the men also shot one of the officers, who was quickly rushed to the hospital.

"The men later regrouped and returned to the checkpoint at about 10:00p.m. and opened fire on the security personnel manning

the post, but by this time, it was the military that was at the checkpoint and there was an exchange of gunfire.

"All in all, 17 corpses were recovered, while the injured ones were taken to the hospital."

Reacting to the development, the police assured that all culprits involved in the fresh killings in the area would be dealt with in accordance with the law.

The command's image maker, Muhammad Jalige, said it is true gunmen attacked Southern Kaduna communities in the early

hours of Sunday, "but security forces are on top of the situation.

"From the briefing I received from the Area Commander, trouble started a couple of days ago when a boy rearing cattle was murdered. We have been trying to manage the situation while investigating the sad occurrence before trouble finally broke out.

"A joint security team will be combing the bushes in the area on Sunday afternoon to search for bodies, and also go after the suspects responsible for the killings.

"We are on top of the situation and all the hoodlums responsible will be rounded up."

Meanwhile, the state government has declared a 24-hour curfew in Ungwan Juju, Mabuhu, Ungwan Wakili and Zango Urban communities with immediate effect.

According to a statement issued by the Special Assistant to the Local Government chairman, Chris Ephraim, and made available to newsmen on Sunday, the curfew is "to allow men of the Nigerian Army restore peace on that axis."

