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Air strikes kill scores of fleeing bandits in Kaduna

Muhammad Sabiu | Kaduna

AIR strikes have killed scores of bandits trying to flee after attacking a community in Birnin Gwari Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

This was disclosed by the state Commissioner for Internal

Security and Home Affairs, Samuel Aruwan, on Wednesday.

The statement noted that at about 9:44a.m, the ministry received a distress call of bandits attacking Sabon Layi village in Birnin Gwari LGA.

"It was confirmed that the bandits were shooting, rus-

ting cattle, looting properties and committing other heinous crimes, a situation which had residents scampering for safety.

"Immediately, the Air Component of Operation Whirl Punch was contacted for action, and the unit responded promptly to the location.

"On arrival at Sabon Layi, a thorough scan revealed normal human activities at the reported location.

"However, about four kilometers North of Sabon Layi village, the bandits were sighted fleeing for cover from the aircraft. They were en-

gaged and neutralised in several passes.

"No further movement was observed after the strike. The aircraft sustained its presence overhead before withdrawing.

"While the government awaits a formal report on the

initial attack in Sabon Layi village, Governor Nasir el-Rufai has praised the air component for the prompt action and conveyed his gratitude for neutralising the fleeing bandits," the statement read.