

27 killed in Zamfara gang violence

Published April 21, 2018

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Jesusegun Alagbe and Kayode Idowu

At least 27 people have been killed in a fresh outbreak of gang violence in Zamfara State.

Suspected cattle thieves on motorcycles were reported to have launched reprisals on the Kabaro and Danmami villages in the Maru district of the state, where security forces are battling to contain cattle-

rustling gangs.

Usmanu, who said he had attended the funeral of the victims, told AFP that “twenty people were killed in Kabaro and seven others were also shot dead in Danmami. We buried them this morning before the Friday prayers.”

The attack came after villagers had mobbed and killed a member of the cattle rustling gang, according to Usmanu.

Another resident, Bubr Murtala, said, “The perpetrators are the same cattle thieves that have been terrorising us for years, stealing our cattle and abducting people for ransom.”

“All we have for defence are muskets, but the bandits use modern firearms,” Murtala added.

The Public Relations Officer of the Zamfara Police Command, Mohammed Shehu, confirmed the attacks, noting that policemen had been deployed for an on-the-spot assessment.

Meanwhile, a commander in the Boko Haram sect, a doctor and five others on Friday denounced the terrorist group and presented themselves for rehabilitation.

Presenting them at a news conference in Maiduguri, the head of the military counter-insurgency operation in the North-East (Theatre Commander of Operation Lafiya Dole), Maj. Gen. Rogers Nicholas, said that the terrorists’ surrender to the military would fast-track the rehabilitation process currently ongoing.