

# Police kill nine bandits, arrest two on Abuja-Kaduna highway

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Acting Inspector-General of Police, Mohammed Adamu

## Adelani Adepegba , Abuja

Operatives of ‘Operation Puff Adder,’ have killed nine suspected bandits terrorising commuters along the Abuja-Kaduna Expressway and also arrested two others.

The team recovered six AK47 rifles, one pump action gun, 1,206 rounds of AK47 ammunition, seven magazines and 28 cartridges, including 158 expended shells.

According to a statement in Abuja on Sunday by the police spokesman, DCP Frank Mba, the recovery followed a serious exchange of gunfire between the police operatives and a heavily armed criminal gang at the Akilbu Forest, off Abuja-Kaduna Expressway.

It stated, “One of the police operatives, however, sustained gunshot wound and he is presently receiving treatment in a hospital. Effort is being intensified to arrest the fleeing members of the gang.”

Meanwhile, the American Society for Industrial Security, Chapter 273, Abuja, has attributed the rising criminal activities across the country to the porous borders which it said displaced ‘soldiers of fortunes’ from Syria, Mali and Libya, were taking advantage of.

Addressing journalists in Abuja on Sunday, ASIS Chairman, Kabir Adamu, said the high return on investment for kidnapping, lack of political will to address the menace and lack of capacity by the security forces to stamp out the scourge and the quasi-official sanctioning of ransom payment have contributed to the escalation of banditry in the country.

He added, “A typical example here was the dastardly reign of the infamous “Buharin Daji”, who held Zamfara State hostage for a few years and was a law unto himself until his death in 2018.

“The implication is that this region will fall into a perpetual cycle of violence like we have seen in the North East and South-South regions in a classical ‘conflict trap.’ The effect of this on the economy, particularly on food security and poverty level of the people, can better be imagined.”

Adamu asked the Federal Government to take an all-inclusive view of the threats and vulnerabilities with the aim of quickly outlining immediate, medium and long-term initiatives to curb the security risks and threats.

Stating that ASIS as an international body of industrial security specialists could avail its expertise in this regard, the security specialist counselled the Federal Government to roll out community policing by instituting intelligence-led policing, community partnerships and institutional reforms.

Adamu further called for the use of technical and human intelligence collection as well as technology such as drones and tracking systems that allowed the security agencies to adopt surveillance mechanisms to know the communication and movement of the bandits, their informants and sponsors as well as collaborators.

He added, “The government should also establish a modern and well-equipped intelligence fusion centre in Abuja and across the six geo-political zones of the country to aid security deployment.”

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BANDITS