

Bandits kill 31 in fresh Zamfara attack

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No fewer than 31 persons were killed by suspected bandits in a village in the Maru Local Government Area of Zamfara State on Saturday.

The Sarkin Gandun Dansadau, Husaini Umar, spoke about the attack on Dansadau, a locality in Maru LGA, in an interview he granted the BBC Hausa Service, which was monitored in Gusau, late on Sunday.

Umar explained that the armed attackers, who rode on motorcycles, stormed Dungurgu village in broad daylight to carry out the attack.

According to him, majority of the victims were killed on their farms while trying to escape the attack.

The monarch, who expressed disgust over the persistent killings and kidnappings of innocent people in the state, appealed to the Federal Government to come to their aid by deploying more troops to fight the bandits.

He said, “Thirty-one people died in (Saturday’s) attack, all of them were males, no female. Twelve people who were injured during the attack are currently receiving treatment in a hospital here in Dansadau.

“I went to the hospital and the doctor in charge of their treatment explained to me that two people were referred to the hospital in Gusau because the hospital here cannot handle their injuries.”

In response to a question as to whether he contacted the authorities when he received information about the attack, he said, “I called the Divisional Police Officer as soon as I received the information but in fairness to him, he lacks the personnel and mobility to deal with the situation.

“I am pleading with the security agencies at the federal and state levels to come to our aid because we are not feeling the effect of all the operations they are staging.”

The monarch further explained that his emirate had witnessed a series of banditry attacks where thousands of lives were lost in the last few years.

He expressed the fears that, unless the issue was squarely addressed, socio-economic activities of the area would one day grind to a halt.

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When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer, Zamfara State Police Command, SP Mohammed Shehu, confirmed the attack on Dungurgu, but said only 10 people died.

He said, “When the command received the distress call, we mobilised our men to the area and we are currently on top of the situation. Only 10 people lost their lives and those injured are responding to treatment.”