

# Six killed as police, troops battle bandits in Katsina

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## Olaide Oyelude, Katsina

NO fewer than six persons were killed in the early hours of Tuesday during a gun battle with troops of the Nigerian Army and some operatives of the Nigeria Police in Katsina State.

The bandits had stormed Tsaskiya community in Safana Local Government Area of the state before they were tackled in the process by security personnel.

While five of the bandits were gunned down, a 30-year-old man, Rabe Bala, said to be mentally challenged, was also killed by the hoodlums.

The bandits were said to have kidnapped three women during the attack while retreating to the forest.

Sources said the bandits, who were in large number and armed with weapons, including General Purpose Machine Guns and AK 47 rifles, stormed the community at 4am in a coordinated attack through three security barricades.

They were said to be on a revenge mission.

The spokesman for the Katsina Police Command, Gambo Isah, confirmed the incident, adding that efforts were on to rescue the kidnapped women.

He said, “Bandits numbering over 200 armed with sophisticated weapons such as General Purpose Machine Guns and AK 47 rifles, shooting sporadically, clandestinely attacked the village through three entry security barricades.

“In the spur of the moment, the teams engaged the hoodlums in a gun duel and as a result, five suspected bandits were killed and many escaped with gunshot wounds. On the other hand, the hoodlums shot and killed one Rabe Bala, ‘m’, aged 30 years from the village.”