

# Kaduna vigilante, three others killed, NAF bombs bandits' hideouts

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Some bandits reportedly attacked Katarma village in the Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State, on Wednesday, killing four persons, including a vigilante, while three persons sustained injuries.

The bandits were also said to have kidnapped scores of villagers, mainly women, but troops later rescued them unhurt.

The state Commissioner for Internal Security and Home Affairs, Mr Samuel Aruwan, who confirmed the attack, said the air component of the Operation Thunder Strike mobilised to Katarma and Kussau and neutralised the bandits.

The two villages border the neighbouring Niger State.

“Four persons, Bulus Barde, Hassan Zarmai, Lawal Pada and Kefas Auta, as well as vigilantes were killed in the gunfight; with three others, Amos Doma, Zamba Ali and Bomboi Busa, injured. All the kidnapped women were rescued by the troops,” Aruwan said in a statement on Thursday.

The commissioner also said that air force jets bombed 17 villages in the Chikun, Birnin-Gwari, Giwa and Igabi local government areas and neutralised scores of bandits.

Aruwan stated, “Security agencies have informed the Kaduna State Government that armed bandits on Wednesday attacked Katarma village in the Chikun Local Government Area and kidnapped some locals, mainly women.

“According to the report, the bandits were initially engaged by local vigilantes, who defended the village just before troops were mobilised to the location.

“In response to the attack, air platforms were swiftly mobilised for armed missions over Katarma village and Kusu village in neighbouring Niger State.

“While the ground troops headed for the location, the air component went ahead and neutralised several bandits as contained in the operational feedback to the Kaduna State Government.

“According to the feedback, bandits were sighted at Katarma, clustered amid large herds of cattle, with others were fleeing the location on motorcycles. They were quickly engaged by the fighter jet and neutralised.

“During armed reconnaissance over neighbouring Kusu village, bandits on motorcycles were sighted fleeing from the aircraft and were engaged, as some abandoned their motorcycles and took cover in the bushes.”

He added, “Furthermore, missions were conducted over Albasu, Rahama, Sabon Birni, Kaya, Rikau, Galadimawa, Kerawa, Kidandan, Yadi, Dogon Dawa, Ngede Allah, Takama, Kuduru, Kuduru-Ungwan Yako track and the Kaduna-Birnin Gwari Road, spanning the Birnin Gwari, Giwa, Igabi and Chikun local government areas.

“At Yadi, bandits were sighted on foot and on motorcycles with large herds of rustled cattle, and were duly engaged. Other locations were calm with normal activities observed.”

Aruwan said Governor Nasir El-Rufai had sent condolence messages to the families of those killed by the bandits and prayed for the repose of their souls.

“The governor further expressed satisfaction with the operational feedback and commended the military for sustaining the tempo of taking the fight to the bandits’ enclaves,” he added.