

Two Immigration officers, bandits killed in Katsina border gunfight

1 **Olaide Oyelude, Katsina**

THE Katsina State Command of the Nigeria Immigration Service, on Thursday, lost two of its officers when bandits attacked Kadode village, where the service has a checkpoint.

The village is located along the Katsina/Jibia Highway.

The names of the deceased were given as Umar Bagadaza

Kankara and Lawali Dutse.

Security sources disclosed that the bandits invaded the village a few minutes after midnight to rustle cattle.

The bandits reportedly attacked the NIS checkpoint first before invading the village.

The Immigration officers at the checkpoint attempted to repel the

bandits during which the officers were killed.

It was further learnt that reinforcement made up of policemen and troops of the Nigerian Army later confronted and repelled the bandits.

The sources added that an unspecified number of bandits were also killed in the fierce

encounter, adding that the remaining hoodlums retreated into the forest with the corpses of their colleagues.

Attempts to get the comments of the NIS Comptroller in the state, Abdurrazaq Muaazu, and the command's spokesman, Iliasu Kasimu, were unsuccessful as enquiries on the incident were directed to the Service headquarters in Abuja.

An insider, who spoke on condition of anonymity, however, stated, "Two of our officers have been killed while one soldier was injured in the leg during the encounter with the bandits."

The spokesman for the Katsina State Police Command, SP Gambo Isah, was not available for comments. Calls to his mobile telephone were not taken and he had yet to respond to a text message sent to him seeking information on the incident.

Tears as Army commander wounded by B'Haram dies, buried

2 **Solomon Odeniyi**

TEARS flowed freely on Thursday as the remains of the Commander, Counter Insurgency Operations in Maiduguri, Col. Husseni Sankara, were laid to rest at the Guards Brigade Cemetery in Abuja.

Sankara sustained injuries after stepping on a land mine

July 1.

Reading his citation at his graveside, Col. Adegoke Lawal described the late commander as an articulate, dedicated, loyal and hardworking officer.

"He was a forthright and intelligent officer who was committed to his duty."

Sankara's elder brother, Shehu Jafiya, said his late brother had a

deep love for his country and the Nigerian Army.

Jafiya added that winning the war against insurgency would make his late brother happy.

"What would give him joy is seeing us winning the war against insurgency. Sankara who is passionate about the country, would love to see nothing but a united Nigeria," he added.

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