

Five feared killed as troops rescue victims in foiled Kaduna kidnappings

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No fewer than five persons, including a 10-year-old herder, have reportedly been killed across Zango-Kataf Local Government Area of Southern Kaduna.

Scores were also injured in separate attacks, while troops of Operation Safe Haven repelled some attackers.

This comes as the troops foiled an attempted kidnap of two persons as well as rescued six other at different locations in Jema'a LGA, also in Southern Kaduna.

The state Commissioner for Internal Security and Home Affairs, Samuel Aruwan, confirmed the incidents in two separate statements on Saturday, warning citizens in the affected areas against taking the law into their own hands.

Aruwan said, "The Kaduna State Government has renewed appeals to citizens to end deadly cycles of violence, following reports from security agencies that five people were killed in a series of attacks within Zangon Kataf LGA.

"According to the reports, a 10-year-old herder was killed by unidentified persons around Madauchi Forest, Zangon Kataf LGA. The boy (identified as the son of one Alhaji Dare Mato) was attacked while herding cattle. The corpse of the young herder was recovered and buried.

"An attack was also reported in Kurmin Masara, along Bakin Kogi in Atyap Chiefdom. One resident, Philip Magu, was killed during the attack, before the assailants were repelled by a combined team of Operation Safe Haven and the Police Special Tactical Squad."

The commissioner also disclosed that gunmen attacked the Jankasa general area around the Zangon Kataf/Kaura LGA boundaries, adding that troops repelled the assailants, though one resident, identified simply as Haruna, was shot dead in his farm by the fleeing miscreants

"The troops also repelled an attack in Ungwan Rana in Zonzon District, after a fierce exchange of fire with bandits. One resident, Bitrus Kauna, sustained serious gunshot wounds during the attack and eventually died in hospital.