

Kaduna identifies 32 terror attack victims, debunks helicopter's involvement

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THE Kaduna State Commissioner for Internal Security and Home Affairs, Samuel Aruwan, on Thursday, confirmed that terrorists killed 32 people in villages of Dogon Noma, Ungwan Sarkias as well as Ungwan Maikori in Kajuru Local Government Area of the state on Sunday.

The commissioner, in a statement, however, faulted reports that the terrorists were aided by an helicopter.

He clarified that the bandits didn't attack the communities with helicopters as the helicopter in question was a security helicopter sent to repel the bandits.

Aruwan noted that in Dogon Noma alone, 29 villagers were killed by the terror group while three were killed in Ungwan Sarki and Ungwan Maikori villages.

He listed those killed to include Ahmadu Musa, Audu Dandaura, Akilu Laya, David Wasika,

Hajatu Buhari, Nashon Buhari, Iliya Yaki, Javan Mairabo, Jackson Adamu, Nasco Victor, Dutse Gwamna, Joshua Amadi, Gona Isah, Douglas Yakubu, Phineas Joel, Tanimu Umaru, Abody Iliya, Wanzami Halidu, Dogo Aweh and Sunday Shittu.

Others are Rejoice Audu, Jedidiah Ayawa, Jinkai Pius, Rebecca Ayafa, Ishaya John, Audu Danladi, Jibo Sule, Yakubu Garba, Williams Danba, Maikasa Kufana, Augustine Bahago and Mamiya Maikori.

"Since the attack on Sunday, security agencies and traditional leaders in the locations have been updating the government on the development.

"As of the time of this report, 32 persons have been confirmed dead following the attack."

Aruwan added, "While the government mourned the gruesome killing and burning of houses in the attacked locations, a report was published suggesting that the victims of the attack were killed by terrorists using a helicopter.

"The Kaduna State Government wishes to make a clarification based on reports received since Sunday. The bandits attacked the first two locations and killed 31 citizens. They then headed into Ungwan Maikori, where they killed one person and burnt some houses.

"An Air Force helicopter, under Operation Whirl Punch, dispatched to the area, had earlier scanned the first two locations and sighted burnt houses and properties on fire.

"The helicopter intercepted the bandits at the last location, Ungwan Maikori, and engaged them as they retreated, before the arrival of ground troops to the general area.

"It was the arrival of the air asset which deterred the bandits from further attacks on the citizens in the village, after the bandits had already killed one local and burnt several houses.

"The story that a helicopter provided air support to the bandits against the locals is therefore an untrue account."