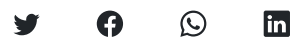


Terrorists, bandits' clash claims two in Kaduna

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By Godwin Isenyo

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A clash between some bandits and a splinter Boko Haram sect – the Ansaru terror group, have left two locals dead, *Saturday PUNCH* reports.

The Chairman of the Birnin Gwari Emirate Progressive Union, Ishaq Kasai, who stated this in a statement in Kaduna on Friday, said some bandits on motorbikes attacked Damari, Kazage ward in Eastern Birnin Gwari Local Government Area of Kaduna, killing two natives of the area.

Kasai also said the attack which happened on Wednesday left shops, vehicles as well as a private hospital burnt.

According to him, the clash between the two terror groups lasted for more than two hours with the Ansaru having superior firepower and overpowering the bandits, who also wielded sophisticated weapons.

The development led to the residents applauding the efforts of the Ansaru terror group for saving them from the bandits' attack.

The BEPU chairman also disclosed that the terror groups' clash forced hundreds of the communities to flee the area.

The statement read, "Bandits numbering about 200 on motorcycles, wielding sophisticated weapons targeted and attacked Damari town of Kazage Ward in the Eastern Part of Birnin-Gwari Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

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"The attack took place around 5pm on Wednesday, July 13, 2022, while Ansaru members were right inside the town preaching to locals.

"On hearing the sporadic gunshots from the bandits, the Ansaru members moved towards them and started exchanging fire. They clashed for about an hour. The Ansaru members who were also heavily armed overpowered the bandits, which made them to retreat and run away.

“During the clash, one shop, two vehicles, one private hospital were burnt. Two natives (labourers) were also killed by the bandits on their way from farm while the bandits were running away to forest.

“The private hospital was burnt accidentally as a result of the fire which spread from the second burning vehicle that was nearby.

“As a result of this, most of the community members appreciate and hail the Ansaru members for defending the town from the bandits’ attack without which they believe that the situation could have been more damaging.

“Hundreds of persons, including women and children migrated from the town as a result of the attack. The attack was very organised one because the bandits knew that the Ansaru members are covering the town. Hence, it was countered by the Ansaru members.