

# Bandits kill three soldiers, five policemen guarding construction workers

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By Maiharaji Altine

No fewer than eight security personnel were killed by bandits on Thursday near Tazame village in the Tsafe Local Government Area of Zamfara State.

An indigene of the area, Mubarak Mohammed, told The PUNCH that the security personnel, comprising five policemen and three soldiers, were attached to a road construction company, Satraco Nigeria Limited.

Mohammed explained that the police and military personnel were regularly stationed on the road to provide protection for the construction workers repairing the Gusau-Tsafe-Zaria Road.

He said the men were on duty when the bandits suddenly emerged from hiding and opened fire, killing them on the spot.

File: Bandits  
The bandits were hiding on a nearby farm close to the main road, and as soon as the police and military personnel arrived, they (the bandits) opened fire instantly, killing some of them.”

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“There was a heavy fight between the bandits and the security personnel, which led to the deaths of more security personnel,” Mohammed added. “Some of the bandits were also killed during the encounter.”

Muhammad reported that pandemonium ensued on the road as motorists abandoned their vehicles and fled into the bush for safety.

According to Mohammed, the construction work on the road has been ongoing since last year, but only a few kilometres have been completed due to frequent bandit attacks.

“This project has been ongoing for several months, but only a few kilometres have been covered because the bandits are always here, either attacking the construction workers or travelers on the road,” he explained.

*Efforts to obtain a comment from the state Police Public Relations Officer, Yazid Abubakar, were unsuccessful, as he could not be reached by phone at the time of filing this report.*