

Nine killed in Katsina as bandits ambush security agents

FAITH MAJI

TERRORISTS struck again in Katsina State on Friday, killing nine security operatives and injuring one other.

Sunday PUNCH gathered that the security operatives were ambushed in Faskari and Matazu Local Government Areas of the state.

The victims were members of the Katsina State Community Watch Corps and Vigilante Corps.

Faskari and Matazu are among the local governments troubled by terrorist activities in the state.

Sources told our correspondent that the terrorists, in separate attacks between Yankara and Faskari on Friday evening, ambushed members of the Katsina State Community Watch Corps, killing some of them.

Additionally, two vigilante officers working to maintain security in the region were also killed.

A source in Katsina, who spoke on condition of anonymity to our correspondent on Saturday, provided the names of the deceased as Mubarak Shu'aibu Labo, Muhammad Hassan, Mubarak Shu'aibu, and an unidentified officer.

According to the source, the slain vigilante members were Babangida Bature, also known as Babangida Doza, and Ibrahim Rishi.

In a separate attack that same Friday evening, the terrorists ambushed vigilante members from Matazu Local Government on their way from Gwarjo to Yalwa, killing no fewer than three officers, while one was seriously injured.

The Secretary of the Vigilante group in Matazu, Jamilu Aliyu, confirmed the attack to Sunday PUNCH.

Meanwhile, Governor Dikko Umaru of the state has

sympathised with the families of the deceased.

Umaru, in a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Ibrahim Kaula, praised the bravery and sacrifice of the security operatives who died in the line of duty.

The statement reads partly, "Yesterday, October 4, 2024, at approximately 1600 hours, armed bandits ambushed a joint team of Community Watch Corps and Vigilante Corps members who were providing security for farmers harvesting their crops near Unguwar Kafa along the Yankara-Faskari road.

"In the ensuing firefight,

which lasted over an hour, four CWC members and two Vigilante Corps members tragically lost their lives.

"Our security operatives displayed exceptional courage and coordination in repelling this attack. Their prompt action undoubtedly saved many lives and protected our hardworking farmers.

"These brave men who lost their lives are true heroes of our state. Their sacrifice in service to Katsina will never be forgotten. We stand with their families in this difficult time and assure them of our unwavering support."

Govt demolishes another kidnappers den in Enugu

RAPHAEL EDE

THE Enugu State Government has demolished another property linked to kidnappers in furtherance of its avowed zero tolerance for kidnapping. It also cautioned landlords against harbouring shady characters in their properties.

The state's Criminal Code Law mandates the demolition or forfeiture of such properties.

Speaking with journalists at the site of the demolition, the

Executive Chairman, Enugu Capital Territory Development Authority, Uche Anya, confirmed that a mansion located in Amaebo Owelli community in Awgu Local Government Area was used to hide kidnapped victims.

Anya stated that a video of a male kidnapping victim, who had several AK-47 rifles pointed at his head in May 2024, was recorded in the same building, adding that security agencies were able to track the building, rescuing the victim, while also apprehending most of the criminals and

recovering a cache of arms and ammunition.

He said, "What you see here today is the continuation of the war of the Enugu State Government against all manner of criminality. Today, we are here to take down a kidnappers' den. The property you see us taking down right now is a place where horrendous criminal activities happen.

"For instance, on May 25, 2024, some deadly kidnappers abducted a man in Enugu, brought him here, stripped him bare, bound him, pointed guns at him, and forced him to start