

Six killed as Zamfara driver runs over bandits' explosive device

5th December 2024



| Gbenga Oloniniran, Olayiwola Ajisafe and Mahiharaji Altine

Kindly share this story:



Six travellers were reportedly killed on Sunday after a vehicle conveying them ran on explosives planted along the Dansadau-Gusau Road in the Maru Local Government Area of Zamfara State.

A source said some bandits planted the explosives after the completion of community work on the road.

The tragic incident occurred along the Gusau-Dansadau road when the commercial vehicle ran over the explosive device planted by bandits.

The explosion destroyed a bridge and reportedly claimed lives.

According to a local resident, Sani Musa, the explosive was part of the bandits' strategy to launch a reprisal on Unguwar Yargaladima village.

The attack was intended to avenge the killing of their leader, Sani Black, by the village's vigilante group.

Musa explained that the village had alerted military personnel about the impending attack, prompting the bandits to plant the explosive to thwart any rescue mission.

“The bandits got information from an informant within the community that the military was on its way. They planted an explosive on a bridge to eliminate the security personnel,” Musa said.

Tragically, the commercial vehicle unknowingly triggered the device, resulting in the destruction of the vehicle.

Despite the explosive detonation, the bandits, reportedly numbering in the hundreds, proceeded toward Unguwar Yargaladima.

Another resident of the area, identified as Abdullahi Dansadau, told Channels Television that the Volkswagen Golf 3 vehicle exploded after it ran over the explosives, killing six people, and leaving eight others injured.

“One Golf 3 vehicle stepped on the bomb and exploded. We have six dead bodies here now and eight others sustained injuries. The vehicle was destroyed completely,” Dansadau said.

Related News

Six killed as P'Harcourt-bound bus plunges into Edo river

UPDATED: 40 killed in Pakistan blast

Six killed in China kindergarten attack

However, military personnel had already mobilised and set up an ambush near the village.

“When the military sighted the bandits, they opened fire, killing many of them,” Musa recounted.

This clash was part of an operation by military personnel under “Operation Fansan Arewa,” during which scores of terrorists were neutralised near Unguwar Yargaladima village.

When contacted on the telephone by our correspondent, the Public Relations Officer, Zamfara State Police Command, Yazid Abubakar, stated that he was yet to confirm the incident.

He also noted that he couldn't ascertain the number of casualties and those injured.

He said, "At this moment, I don't have such information but I'll call the DPO there to confirm whether the incident happened. I'll get back to you."

Efforts to reach the spokesperson for Operation Hadarin Daji, Lt. Col. Suleiman Omale, for comments were unsuccessful as he did not respond to calls.

Recently, the Chief of Defence State, Gen. Christopher Musa, lamented that the use of explosives by insurgents remained a major challenge to the military in the war against terrorism.

The CDS, who spoke in Abuja on November 2 at a two-day Security and Justice Symposium organised by the National Counter-terrorism Centre, said, "For us in the Armed Forces during our operations, the challenges we are facing, IEDs. IEDs have been the major challenge since the beginning of the insurgency. So we are looking at aspects of how we handle this, what solutions, and what new things we can do."

Another resident of the area, identified as Abdullahi Dansadau, told Channels Television that a Volkswagen Golf 3 vehicle exploded after it ran over the explosives, killing three people, and leaving eight others injured.

"The victims were rushed to Dansadau General Hospital and nobody can ascertain whether they are dead or alive for now. Security personnel comprising soldiers and police have been deployed to the scene of the incident.