

# Katsina gun battle leaves policeman, eight bandits dead

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| By Faith Maji

| Map of Katsina State

One police officer and eight bandits have been confirmed dead after security forces repelled an attack by suspected bandits in the Safana Local Government Area of Katsina State.

The incident occurred in the early hours of Wednesday when a large group of bandits attacked Zakka community in Safana. Residents of the area quickly called on security operatives for help.

A security source, speaking on condition of anonymity for lack of authorisation to speak to the press, said several security operatives, including police, military, and vigilantes, were mobilised to the scene in response to the attack.

The bandits were successfully repelled, with eight of them killed and several others injured.

However, the source added that a Mobile Police officer lost his life during the incident due to his unfamiliarity with the terrain.

“Several of the bandits were located in an area in the community, and the Mopol ran into them as there was a newcomer not familiar with the terrain. Sadly, they shot him in the left eye. We later picked him up and wheeled him away from the area,” the source said.

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Despite the heavy gunfire, the source confirmed that only one casualty occurred from the security side:

“Eight of the bandits were killed. Some people even said several of them were injured during the attack. But we were lucky there was only one casualty from the security side.”

The source further noted that security operatives remain stationed in the community as a precaution against any potential escalation.

“Some of the security operatives are still stationed in the community even as I’m speaking to you right now, and they are there in case of any eventuality,” he said.

Safana Local Government has long been a hotspot for banditry, kidnapping, and cattle rustling, with hundreds of lives lost in the region over the past decade.

When contacted for comment, the Katsina State Police Public Relations Officer, Abubakar Sadiq, declined to provide any details at the time of filing this report.