

# Gunmen kill 34, sack 3 communities in Zamfara



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It was yet another horrific scene yesterday as residents of Zamfara State woke up to the news of a carnage that has bedeviled the state. Armed bandits were said to have moved into three communities in the early hours of the day, sacking the villagers and killing at least 34 people. The three communities of Kabaro, Danmani Hausawa and Danmani Dakarkari villages, all in Dansadau emirate, in Maru Local Government Area of Zamfara State had been thrown into mourning following

the unfortunate occurrence. Some residents of the communities, who escaped with bullet wounds while fleeing the incident, said the hoodlums arrived the area in their hundreds on motorcycles. Some of those that narrated their ordeal to Saturday Telegraph however refused to mention their names or allow their pictures taken for fear of an attack. One of the injured victim said: “We can’t tell you our names for security reasons, but we know that we counted at least 34 bodies before we escaped.

“They came early and they attacked Kabaro and Danmani, both Hausawa and Dakarki. They are Fulanis rampaging the area and they killed many people, both young and old. “We have gone to the police, but what do you expect from them? As usual, they will protect the hoodlums”, he said. Another victim further told Saturday Telegraph that the attack on the three communities was a reprisal of an arrest by soldiers from the 223 battalion, who had earlier apprehended some of the bandits. “Soldiers arrested some of them, about five of them, it is an indication that they had premonition of the attack. The 223-battalion soldiers in Zuru were on patrol inside the bush, in the border between Zamfara and Kebbi states.

“They succeeded in the arrests of five armed bandits, all with AK-47 raffles, but we don’t know why they didn’t see this attack coming.” He explained that the rest of the armed bandits living inside the Dansadau forest

carried out the attack, after the arrest of their colleagues by the soldiers.

“They later planned an ambush on the soldiers but it was foiled as they were overpowered by the superior powers of the military and they scattered into the bush.

“So, it is surprising that they could regroup and carry out this senseless attack and the soldiers allowed it to go. What happened needs to be investigated”. The source further explained that the armed bandits did not only regroup in retaliation but also reinforced in their hundreds to unleash terror on the communities. He explained that the hoodlums were on motorcycles when they entered the three communities about 2:30 am, beginning with an attack on Kabaro village where they surrounded the villagers and killed many of them before moving to the other villages.

He further said between 2.30 am and daybreak on Friday, it was gathered that no less 34 people had been confirmed killed from the three communities. There was a further confirmation of the figure during the Juma’at service as no less that 34 corpses were taken to the burial ground for a congregational prayer led by the Emir of Dansadau, Alhaji Hussaini Umar. When our correspondent spoke on the phone with some of those that attended the Juma’at service to ascertain the number, he had to stop counting when they became emotional, more so when the figure had tallied with the earlier one given by the injured victims. When contacted, the state’s Public Relations Officer (PRO), DSP Shehu Mohammed, confirmed the incident, saying