

Kaduna death toll rises to 64



Published 8 hours ago on May 8, 2018

By **Anule Emmanuel**



Buhari approves Army battalion, police command

Death toll in last weekend bandits' attack on Gwaska community in Birnin-Gwari Local Government Area of Kaduna State has increased to 64, as more bodies were recovered from the town and its environs. The Emir of Birnin- Gwari, Alhaji Zubairu Mai Gwari, who disclosed the latest figure in an interview with PRNigeria, commended the local vigilantes and security agencies in the search and evacuation efforts.

According to him, more people are still missing. The traditional ruler, who also appealed to members of his community to be calm and exercise patience, urged

them to be more vigilant and cooperate with the security agencies in order to tackle the menace of bandits in the area.

Meanwhile, President Muhammadu Buhari has approved the establishment of a new Battalion of the Nigerian Army, and a new Police Area Command in Kaduna State. The two security outfits are expected to be located in Birnin Gwari Local Government Area.

The Senior Special Assistant (SSA) to the President on Media and Publicity, Garba Shehu, disclosed this in a statement yesterday. Shehu said the decision was part of measures to scale up the security response to banditry in the area.

The SSA added that the President strongly condemned the latest massacre of innocent Nigerians in the area. He said: "I am deeply outraged by this unwarranted, unprovoked and reckless destruction of lives by bandits who belong to the lowest level of civilisation. I feel the pains and devastation of the families of the victims, and this administration will do everything possible to ensure we defeat these enemies of humanity."

The new Army Battalion and the Police Area Command are the latest in a series of measures to ensure more effective protection of lives and property, in and around Benue, Kaduna, Taraba, Zamfara and Nasarawa states. Buhari said security remained a priority for his government and that his administration would not tolerate the persistent killing of innocent people in order to set Nigerians against one another. He said: "These persistent killings are not spontaneous; there are subterranean forces with a sinister agenda to instigate war in the country for selfish purposes.

"Although unconventional war is particularly complicated, our security forces are making rigorous efforts to better understand these enemies with a view to decisively checkmating their evil attacks." The President, Garba said, extended his condolences to the families of the victims, the government and the people of Kaduna State.