

66 killed as villagers, bandits clash in Zamfara

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GUSAU

At least 66 people were killed when bandits and residents clashed at Danijbga near Tsafe Local Government Area of Zamfara State.

Seven villagers were said to have been killed when the about 180 bandits invaded the town and opened fire on residents.

A source from Danijbga town told New Telegraph that the bandits invaded the community on Tuesday about 4.45p.m.

According to him, they were on motorcycles and armed with sophisticated weapons.

However, the petrified villagers later summoned courage to confront their assailants. The residents, buoyed by the presence of local vigilantes, mobilised and engaged the bandits in a fierce battle, said to have lasted for about four hours. When the dust settled, 59 of the bandits were killed.

As at yesterday, there were fears that the bandits could regroup and re-launch attack on the community. But the villagers were not letting down their guard; they were

preparing for another round of resistance against the expected invaders.

Yesterday morning, military vehicles loaded with soldiers were already in the town to check further killing.

The Acting Force Information Officer, Major Clement Abiade, said the military authorities were aware of the incident and had drafted troops to the area.

A resident, Chairman Malaha, said the villagers were compelled to resist the bandits because they were tired of extortion.

According to him, the bandits recently abducted more than 100 villagers from Danijbga and forced them to pay between N5 million and N15 million.

The community is a commercial town, which is home to a crop of rich people. This makes the residents easy targets for the bandits.

At a wedding ceremony recently, the bandit, who reportedly disguised as women, killed the family head and abducted more than 15 women. They also kept the women hostage for more than 20 days.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP Shehu Mohammad, said the bandits ambushed

the farmers of Danijbga town working in their farms and killed six of them.

Mohammad added that when the report of the incident reached the Divisional Police Officer of Tsafe Local Government Area, he quickly mobilised the Mobile Police and the military to the scene where they met none of the bandits as they had fled after the attack.

The PPRO added that the policemen and soldiers evacuated the six bodies of farmers killed by the bandits.

He said normalcy had been restored in the area.



Gunmen

Imo APC chair murdered at family dinner

Steve Uzoechi
OWERRI

Members of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Logara/Umuohiagu Ward of Ngor Okpala Local Government Area of Imo State have been thrown into mourning following the murder of their ward chairman, Mr. Ifeanyi Ozoemena.

Ozoemena was shot dead on Tuesday night by some assailants.

The slain party chairman, who hailed from Umuokeada Logara, was said to have been killed in his house barely two hours after he had hosted a well-attended ward meeting of the party in preparation for the rescheduled Presidential and National Assembly elections.

The deceased, a father of three, was killed about 9p.m. when the gunmen stormed his house and shot him point-blank on the head and belly before fleeing.

Community sources said the killers had come in a red Highlander SUV and had patrolled the area for hours before attacking Ozoemena.

Narrating her experience, his widow said the killers came when she was having dinner with her husband and called him out of the house through a young boy in the compound.

She said that her husband went out to see who was looking for him and did not come back alive.

She said: "After the meeting and people had dispersed, we

went in to eat and it was while we were eating between 8.30p.m. and 9p.m. that a 'small' boy in the compound came and called my husband that he had visitors.

"My husband went out to see the person and after staying for some time I went out to know who came to see him only to notice that one of the visitors was dragging him on the trousers. I tried to question why he was being held that way, one of the visitors brought out gun and shot him on his side through his ribs.

"Then they dragged him outside the compound and gave him the final gunshot on the forehead and belly and he died instantly. The killers zoomed off. I shouted but no one came to his rescue rather the neighbours fled into hiding on hearing the gunshots."

NUJ/NAWOJ housing fraud: Court summons Ooni's brother

Olaekan Osiade

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) arm of the La-

portant, Kalejaye said that his clients could not appear in person because they were working in Abuja.

Consequently, strongly advised

45 hours in Kaduna food market