

However, in the latest orgy of violence in Kaduna, at least seven persons were killed in renewed clashes between communities in the state.

The state government, which confirmed the latest killings in a statement on Saturday, said, the military under the auspices of Operation Safe Haven (OPSH) and the police, informed the government of counter attacks on some settlements in Kauru and Lere local government areas.

The latest attack took place at Ungwan Idi and Kasheku villages of Kauru Local Government Area and Ningi village in Lere Local Government. Samuel Aruwan, the state's Commissioner, Ministry of Internal Security and Home Affairs said: "The operational feedback from the security agencies, said the attacks were carried out by aggrieved youths following the killing of seven persons on Thursday night."

He said the security agencies reported that seven persons were killed in reprisal attacks in Ungwan Idi and Kasheku villages of Kauru Local Government while two others were injured at Ningi village of Lere Local Government. "Five persons are still missing and troops are searching for them in the general area. Six huts were burnt in the attack. "Aisha Mohammed (20 years) and Sadiya Abdullahi (25 years) who were wounded in the Kauru LGA reprisal attack are receiving medical attention at Ungwan Idi Clinic," Aruwan said. According to the statement: "Governor Nasir El-Rufai who condemned the renewed counter killings sent condolences to the families who lost their loved ones and wished those recuperating speedy recovery. "He described the renewed killing and counter killing of innocent citizens of Atyap and Fulani ethnicity as unfortunate. "He decried the resort to violence, noting that it is not a solution to grievances and disputes, but a tragic way to escalate matters and drag people into more pains and misery.

"The governor directed the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) to provide relief materials to the affected families with immediate effect." And Borno State saw the return of female suicide bombing on Saturday when a teenage girl killed at least three people when she blew herself up in a crowd, militia and humanitarian sources told AFP.