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Bandits attack Zamfara gov's convoy, kill 2 in Katsina

By Bashir Bello, with agency reports

CUSPECTED bandits, On Sunday evening, opened fire on motorcade of Zamfara State governor, Bello Matawalle, who was on his way to condole with victims of a previous attack on a community in Gusau Local Government Area.

s)(0This came as bandits again attacked Batsari Alhaji village <u>in Batsari</u> Local Government Area of Katsina State, killing two persons, barely 24 hours after the visist of wife of the President, Mrs. Aisha Buhari, to the Internally Displaced Persons, IDPs, camp in the area.

Eyewitnesses said the governor's convoy came under attack while he was enroute Lilo community to sympathise with victims of the attack on Saturday.

Bandits had earlier on Saturday, killed eight persons and and injured 18 others, after attacking Lilo community, on the outskirts of Gusau, the state capital.

But the state government in a swift reaction said it was governor who rather, alongside security agents, who took the battle to the bandits.

But the eyewitnesses said the bandits took advantage Bandits kill 2 of the bushy terrain, and opened fire on governor's convoy.

A source, who said he was unsure of the number of casualties, said the governor's security details quickly returned fire and were able to protect and evacuate their principal.

However, Acting Chief Press Secretary to the governor, Yusuf Idris, said in a statement, yesterday, that it was the governor who led security operatives for an 'operation' to rout out bandits from their hideouts.

He said the governor was accompanied by his deputy, Mahadi Aliyu-Gusau, the state's security heads and other dignitaries.

According to him, the team was able "to chase bandits at their camps during the unannounced visit to the area."

Idris noted that the bandits abandoned their hideouts and fled after the onslaught by the team.

in Katsina

Meanwhile, barely 24 hours after the visit of the wife of the President, Mrs. Aisha Buhari, to the Internally Displaced Persons, IDPs, in Batsari Local Government Area of Katsina State, armed bandits again attacked a village, Batsari Alhaji village in the area, killing two persons.

Spokesperson of Katsina State Police Command, SP Gambo Isah, who confirmed the incident, said the bandits stormed the area on Sunday night but were resisted by his men and officers on ground who swung into action to repel

them.