

Residents flee community as bandits kill vigilante leader, 6 others in Zamfara

RESIDENTS of Mada community in Gusau Local Government Area of Zamfara State have deserted their homes for fear of more attacks from bandits after the killing of seven vigilante members on Sunday, in what some residents say was a reprisal attack.

Confirming the incident, the police authorities in the state, yesterday, disclosed that officers have been sent to ensure that residents of the community are safe.

Yusuf Anka, a resident with deep knowledge of the conflict in the area, said the vigilante commander, Danmudi Na Mada, led his colleagues to attack a hideout of the bandits and killed one notorious bandit known as Mala'ikan Hausawa (Angel of death in Hausa).

Anka said the killing of the bandit angered other bandits, which led to the reprisal.

"Last week, Dan-Mudi's group recorded the killing of a notorious bandit leader nicknamed 'Mala'ikan Hausawa.' He was also recently accused of setting ablaze homes of innocent Fulanis in Tsafe," Anka said.

The slain vigilante leader was praised for securing Hausa communities, especially Mada and Wonaka but it was also alleged that he was involved in the killing of innocent Fulanis in the area.

A local source, who asked not to be named over concern for his safety, said they attacked the vigilante members around 10:47 pm.

"The exchange of gunfire between them lasted for hours before they overpowered the vigilante and killed seven of them. They, however couldn't get into the town after the arrival of soldiers and policemen," he said.

It was gathered that most of the residents of the community have fled.