

Suspected herders kill 12 in Benue, Plateau communities

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•***Pastor, two church members abducted***

•***Five injured in hospital***

SUSPECTED herders armed with sophisticated weapons have killed six persons in Sai, Katsina Ala Local Government Area, in Benue Northeast Senatorial District.

The killings occurred between 11pm and midnight in the town, which shared a boundary with Takum Local Government Area in Taraba State.

A resident, Paul Awunah, told The Nation on phone that the inhabitants of Sai were about to settle for the night when they heard sporadic gunshots from various directions in the sleepy town.

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Awunah said: "In the ensuing melee, many people fled, but after the dust settled, six people were killed, while five others sustained severe injuries and were taken to NKST Health Centre in Sai.

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He said the military and police visited the scene of the attack in the morning, but no arrest.had been made.

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In another incident, a cleric with NKST Church Andyar, Rev Samuel Gbinde, has been kidnapped by unknown gunmen.

Rev. Gbinde, according to a statement by NKST General Secretary, Dr.T. A Agba, was abducted alongside two members of his church in the early hours of June 30, 2026, from his residence.

Governor Hyacinth Alia condemned the attacks, in a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Sir Kula Tersoo.

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The governor described the tragedy as a “senseless assault on innocent citizens”, according to Tersoo.

Also, six persons were killed in a fresh attack in Barkin Ladi and Jos South local government areas of Plateau State

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Two persons were killed in Barkin Ladi council, while four in Jos South.

The Berom Youth Moulders Association (BYM) in a statement by its National Publicity Secretary, Rwang Tengwong, said the incident occurred about 9 30 p.m. on Tuesday when the gunmen opened fire on residents in Zargwok community of Gashish District, Barkin Ladi Local Government Area during which the two residents Ayuba Danladi, 33, and Luka Macham, 35 were killed.

The association also reacted to claims by the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN) that four of its members were killed around the Gero–Rafin Bauna axis of Jos South Local Government Area.

According to BYM, the four persons were among a group that allegedly attacked a mining site in Nyango, Gyel District, on June 29.

The association claimed that the group opened fire on miners, resulting in the death of three persons and injuries to two others.

BYM further alleged that vigilante members mobilised in response to the attack, leading to a confrontation during which four of the suspected attackers were killed, while others reportedly fled.