

MACBAN alleges killing of three herders in Plateau community

Allegation ploy to attack innocent residents — Youth leader

Isaac Shobayo | Jos

THE Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN) has alleged that three herders were killed on Thursday night along the Dorowa-Jong Road in Barkin Ladi Local Government Area of Plateau State.

The Berom Youth Moulder Association (BYM), however, described the allegation as a pretext by MACBAN to attack innocent residents of Barkin Ladi.

In a statement signed by its Plateau State chairman, Ibrahim Yusuf Babayo, MACBAN identified the victims as Tahiru Muhammad (30), Jibrin Salisu (28) and Abdulmumin Isyak (31).

The association said they were ambushed while riding motorcycles home to Jong community after attending a Qur'an Tafsir session in Dorowa.

MACBAN alleged that the attack was carried out by members of the Berom community, whom it accused of perpetrating violence against its members and cattle.

"The attackers shot the victims and brutally beheaded one of them. The world should see what is happening to us: our people are being targeted and killed with impunity. We condemn this act in the strongest terms and call on authorities to investigate and bring the perpetrators to justice. Security forces, including soldiers and the DPO of Barkin Ladi, have visited the scene," the statement said.

The association urged its members to remain calm and law-abiding, allowing security agencies to handle the situation.

It added that the incident was not the first time its members had allegedly been targeted.

"We are seeking protection and justice. We will not be provoked, but we demand action from the

state and federal governments to safeguard our people and livestock," it stated.

Responding to the allegation, BYM president, Mr. Dalyop Solomon, rejected claims that the killings were carried out by members of the Berom community, insisting that the Berom and other ethnic nationalities do not operate any "killer groups."

"In direct response to the usual allegation by the MACBAN chairman, I ask: who identified the killers as Berom without intercepting or arresting them? Could it not be that armed Fulani militants, in their operations, mistook the victims for others and killed them?" Solomon said.

He alleged that such accusations often precede planned attacks on target communities, adding that authorities should conduct an independent investigation.

Solomon also accused Miyetti Allah of circulating sensational claims and urged relevant agencies to monitor the association and hold its members accountable for any potential attacks on innocent residents.

Meanwhile, spokesman for Operation Enduring Peace, Captain Chinonso Polycarp Oteh, confirmed the incident.

He said the command received information about the attack around 11 pm on Thursday and promptly deployed personnel to the scene.

Captain Oteh added that the General Officer Commanding (GOC) 3 Division and Commander of Operation Enduring Peace had expressed concern over the development and vowed to track down the perpetrators. He said an investigation is underway.

He also appealed to the affected families and residents to remain calm and allow security agencies to determine those responsible for the attack.