UPDATED: Bandits kill 10, injure others in Plateau

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•Hoodlums kill another four traders in transit to Pankshin •Youths, women protest rampant cases of killings

- Two soldiers, one vigilante killed as bandits attack JTF Base, Bauchi community •GOC escapes ambush in Kebbi

BANDITS terrorising parts of Plateau State struck again, killing 10 people and injuring others in two communities, Dorowa Babuje and Jol, in Barakin-Ladi and Riyom local government areas, respectively.

Still reeling from the Sunday attack, hoodlums ambushed six traders on Monday as they headed to Pankshin local government area to sell shoes, killing four of them, while the remaining two escaped with injuries.

This came as youths and women in Barakin-Ladi staged a public protest due to rampant cases of killings in their localities by blocking the major highway in the area, linking Jos, the state capital, and other towns in the state.

National president of the Berom Youth Moulder Association (BYM), Mr Dalyop Solomon, who confirmed the attacks to the Nigerian Tribune, disclosed that nine persons were killed in Dorowa Babuje and one in Jol.

Solomon said the two communities were attacked simultaneously around 8 p.m., shooting sporadically at different directions immediately they arrived in the communities.

He added that preliminary investigations concerning recent attacks in the areas showed that the bandits, acting in collaboration with some elements in parts of the state, carried out the attacks.

Solomon said: “We issued out an early warning signal about the attack but received no response from security agencies. Our findings, however, revealed that the attack was led by a notorious bandit, known as ‘Yellow’, who had been exiled from Kaduna.”

He also denied the claim made by the state chapter of the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association (MACBAN) that some of its members were killed by locals, accusing it of blame game to wreck havoc on communities.

In the similar occurrence, the six traders heading to Pankshin council area were ambushed, with four of them killed close to Mangu Hale, in Mangu Local Government Area.

A source close to one of the families of the deceased, who simply identified himself as Ibrahim, said the vehicle conveying them came under fire, adding that two of the traders escaped by the whiskers.

He added that they set out very early on Monday to ply their trade at a market in Pankshin, but could not make it, due to the attack on their vehicle.

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An official of the Traders and Marketing Association, Jos Main Market branch, who craved anonymity, confirmed the incident.

The source said: "The incident was a rude shock to us. These were innocent traders travelling to sell shoes in Pankshin. We have spoken with two of them, who escaped, but the other four were unlucky. This is a sad development."

There was palpable fear in parts of Jos where the traders hailed from, as the people in the area and other adjoining places were scared of possible reprisal.

Meanwhile, youths and women from Barakin-Ladi Local Government Area trooped out on Monday to protest the killings by blocking the only major highway in the area.

It was gathered that the road was barricaded for hours before some government officials intervened alongside security agencies.

One of the protesters, Jeremiah Godiya, said: "We have suffered as a community for too long in the hands of these bandits; the attacks have become a regular occurrence without much intervention from both the government and security agencies.

"If they cannot protest us, it is better we are informed so that we can have our destinies in our hands."