

Gunmen kill eight, injure 10 in Plateau

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Isaac Shobayo and Mmuta Cajetan Ifeanyichukwu

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•Ambush police patrol team in Anambra, kill two officers

NO fewer than eight persons were killed and 10 others injured, when terrorists, on Sunday, attacked Gwon-Ajang village of Foron District in Barkin Ladi Local Government Area of Plateau State.

In a statement by the publicity secretary, Berom Youth Moulder Association (BYMA), Mr Rwang Tengwong, the terrorists, who had been on the prowl in the local government, struck again at about 9:30p.m.

The statement said the 10 people injured are currently receiving treatment at the General Hospital in Barakin-Ladi.

A source close to the village further told the Nigerian Tribune that the gunmen, who invaded the village in their numbers, equally destroyed properties, including farms, before escaping from the area.

The source added that the affected village and neighbouring ones have been deserted for fear of further attacks.

A community leader in the local government who spoke on the condition of anonymity said most residents of rural communities in the council area can no longer access their farms.

Meanwhile, all efforts to contact the spokesman for the state police command, SP Alfred Alabo, for comments did not succeed.

In a related development, gunmen, on Sunday night, shot dead two policemen attached to the Anambra State police command.

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The incident occurred along Awa-Ndiukwuenu-Ufuma road.

It was learnt that the attackers accosted the policemen on patrol and shot at them, leading to the death of the personnel.

The long stretch of the newly-constructed Awa-Ndiukwuenu-Ufuma road, before now, had been a hot bed for criminal elements.

A source close to the community said a tricycle operator, said he was plying the road when suddenly he heard gunshots ahead of him.

He said the development prompted him to abandon his tricycle and hide in a nearby bush for safety.

The tricycle operator said: "After sometime, I came out of the bush and retrieved my Keke and continued my journey, then, I got to the spot where the incident happened, only to find the bodies of two policemen on the road."

The Commissioner of Police in the state, CP Ikioye Orutugu, confirmed the incident, saying that the command has commenced investigations.

Orutugu explained that a team of police officers was returning from an assignment

when they were ambushed by gunmen who opened fire on them.

He said: "A team of police officers was returning from an assignment when they were ambushed by armed men who opened fire on them. In the process, we lost two officers."

He stated that the police have been working on the matter since Sunday night, and have intensified efforts to track down those responsible for the attack.

He, therefore, warned motorists and members of the public to be cautious and avoid approaching unauthorised checkpoints that are not manned by identifiable police personnel and official police vehicles.

"Whenever you approach a checkpoint without police vehicles or clear police identification, you should exercise caution. Either turn back and alert the nearest police formation or immediately contact the police for assistance," Orutugu stated.