

Gunmen kill two Plateau youths returning from security meeting

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File photo: Masked gunmen

| By James Abraham

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Two people were killed by gunmen on Wednesday along the Barkin Ladi-Dorowa Babuje road in Plateau State.

PUNCH Metro was told that the victims were returning home after attending a security meeting called by the Sector Four Commander when they were ambushed and killed.

The National President of Berom Youths Moulders Association, Solomon Dalyop, confirmed the killings to our correspondent in Jos on Wednesday night .

He said the gunmen attacked the youths without provocation.

“Two of our people were killed a while ago. They were going home on Wednesday evening after attending a security meeting called by the Sector Four Commander when they were ambushed along the Barkin Ladi -Dorowa Babuje road and killed. Yesterday, they attacked two villages simultaneously and killed one person in the night around 7 p.m.,” he said.

The incident comes amid heightened tensions in the area, with Dalyop alleging that suspected Fulani armed groups carried out simultaneous attacks on two villages on October 6, killing one person.

Dalyop claimed that the attackers often use allegations of cattle killing as a pretext for their actions.



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“Yesterday, they came up with an allegation that their cows were killed. They will always come up with such allegations, even if they want to kill. Assuming that something like that happens, won’t you allow security agents to carry out an investigation? From our own assumption, it is their own people who attended the security meeting who gave information to their killers about the road our own people returning home would follow. So, they went and blocked the road and killed two people while two others escaped. The corpses of those killed are now lying at the morgue of the Barkin Ladi General Hospital,” Dalyop said.

In a related incident, gunmen killed a 13-year-old herder, Abubakar Wada, and 36 cattle, while 49 cattle are still missing after an attack on grazing animals in the Inzon community of Fan district.

The Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria accused members of the Berom ethnic group of launching the attack, which was denied by the Berom Youths Moulders Association.

MACABAN state chairman, Ibrahim Babayo, explained that the gunmen stormed the scene of the incident and opened fire on the animals, resulting in the death of one herder, while the other two escaped the attack.

“The incident happened in the evening. We have so far counted losses of over 80 cattle because 36 were killed, while 49 are still missing. The attack was carried out by the Berom people from the Fan district. Two herders escaped the attack. This is barbaric and unfortunate. The herders and the cattle were just passing peacefully without provocation. We call on herders wherever they are in the state to remain calm and allow security forces to investigate those responsible for the attack. Nobody should take the law into their hands,” the chairman said.

Our correspondent reports that both incidents have sparked concerns about the escalating violence in Plateau State, with calls for calm and restraint to prevent further bloodshed.

When contacted, the acting Deputy Director, Public Relations, 3 Division of the Nigerian Army, Lieutenant Colonel Aliyu Danja, said they were investigating the matter, saying he had contacted the sector commander in the area for verification. As of the time of filing this report, no further reaction came from him.