

Plateau man killed by suspected bandits

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Illustration image: Gunmen

By James Abraham

A 44-year-old man, Ayuba Choji, has been stabbed to death by suspected Fulani bandits in Plateau State.

PUNCH Metro learnt that the incident occurred on Wednesday night along the Kumex-Mararaba-Foron axis of the Heipang-Foron road in Barkin Ladi Local Government Area.

A community leader, Moses Dung, confirmed the attack during an interview with *PUNCH Metro* on Thursday.

According to Dung, the attackers had previously issued threats and given the community an ultimatum to vacate the area before targeting the deceased and his companion.

“Before now, we have been receiving threats to leave our community. And last night, the assailants suddenly emerged from hiding and attacked two people moving on a motorcycle without provocation. They stabbed Ayuba Pam Choji, and sadly, he gave up the ghost,” Dung said.

A lone survivor, who was riding on the same motorcycle with the deceased, narrated that the assailants “suddenly emerged from hiding and attacked us without provocation,” Rwang Tengwong added.

In a statement on Thursday, the Berom Youth Moulders-Association, signed by its National Publicity Secretary, Rwang Tengwong, condemned the “barbaric and unprovoked act of violence” and called on security agencies to investigate the incident and bring the perpetrators to justice.

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“No grievance can justify the taking of innocent lives,” the statement added.

BYM also expressed concern over reports of suspicious movements by Fulani terrorist elements in the area, urging the government and security agencies to act swiftly to prevent further loss of lives.

The statement further read, “BYM unequivocally condemns this barbaric and unprovoked act of violence and extends its heartfelt condolences to the family of the deceased. The Association expresses grave concern over repeated attempts by some quarters to downplay or rationalise such attacks, reiterating that no grievance can justify the taking of innocent lives.

“BYM calls on security agencies to urgently investigate this incident, intensify surveillance along known flashpoints, and bring the perpetrators to justice. We also note reports from residents across Riyom, Barkin Ladi, Mangu, and Jos South LGAs of heightened fear due to suspicious movements of Fulani terrorist elements, underscoring the need for increased security presence, intelligence-led patrols, and protection of rural communities and farming corridors.

“The Berom Youth Moulders Association urges the Plateau State Government, the Federal Government, and all security formations to act swiftly to prevent further loss of lives, while calling on community members to remain vigilant and cooperate with security agencies. BYM remains committed to peaceful advocacy, truth-telling, and the protection of lives and livelihoods in Plateau State.”

Attempts to reach the spokesman for the Plateau State Police Command, Alabo Alfred, were unsuccessful as his phone appeared to be switched off. However, a source from the police headquarters confirmed that the command is aware of the incident and has commenced an investigation to identify those responsible for the attack.