

# Three herders killed in Plateau attack

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File photo: Map of Plateau State

By James Abraham

Three herders have been killed by gunmen along the Dorowa-Jong road in Barkin Ladi Local Government Area of Plateau State.

Saturday PUNCH gathered that the attack took place on Thursday night.

The state chairman of the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria, Ibrahim Babayo, confirmed the incident to journalists in Jos on Friday.

Babayo said the victims were ambushed by the gunmen on their way home in the Jong community after attending Qur'an Tafsir in the Dorowa community around 7:30pm.

'The perpetrators, after shooting the victims, used sharp objects to cut off the head of one of them. It was a brutal attack that should be condemned by all and sundry.

"We strongly believe this unprovoked attack was carried out by members of the Berom community, who have been perpetrating violence against our members and cattle.

"We condemn this act in the strongest terms and call on authorities to investigate and bring perpetrators to justice.

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“We seek protection and justice. We will not be provoked, but we demand action from state and federal governments to protect our people and livestock,” he said.

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

But the National President of the Berom Youths Moulders of Association, Solomon Mwantiri, absolved his people of any involvement, describing MACBAN’s accusation as unwarranted

“The security forces, including soldiers and DPO, Barkin Ladi, have all visited the scene of the incident.”

Spokesperson of Operation Enduring Peace, Capt Chinonso Polycarp Oteh, confirmed the incident, explaining that “the command received information of the incident on Thursday around 11pm and their officers were quickly mobilised to the scene of the incident.”

Oteh said the GOC 3 Division and commander of Operation Enduring Peace had expressed concern over the incident and vowed to track the perpetrators, adding that investigation into the incident has since begun.

**James Abra**