

Police hold 3 over killing of Fulani chief, 2 others

From Sadeeq Aliyu, Gusau

THREE persons suspected to be involved in last week's murder of three Fulanis including a chief in Maleji settlement in Bungudu Local Government Area of Zamfara State have been arrested by the police while seven others have been declared wanted in connection with the killing.

Investigation by our reporter revealed that the Fulani settlement was attacked by a group at night last week following series of armed robberies in the area for which the Fulanis were suspected. During the attack, one Dogo Na Oshi, the Fulani chief and two others in the settlement were killed while two houses were set ablaze.

It was gathered that the attackers mobilised to put an end to the recurring robbery incidents in the area and in the process, raided many Fulani settlements, some of which were destroyed while others were burnt and many of the Fulanis fled with their animals.

The Divisional Police Officer of Bungudu, Muhammed Abdullahi, who confirmed the incident, said the matter had been forwarded to the C.I.D office for further investigation. Bungudu council chairman Musa Abdullahi Nahuze said the council was collaborating with the police and district head to fish out those behind the murder and arson.

Meanwhile, the fracas is now generating a power tussle among leaders of the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders, the association under which Fulanis run their socio-economic activities. A few days after the incident, one Bello Liman who claimed to be the chairman of the association wrote a letter to Governor Mahmud Shinkafi urging government to take action against the perpetrators. The letter was copied to all security agencies in the state. But in the course of getting more details about the incident, it was gathered that another chairman in the person of Alhaji Ahmed Husaini has been elected to replace Liman.

When our reporter visited the Zamfara State Miyetti Allah office in Gusau, Ahmed Husaini said he was the legally elected chairman and Liman had since been removed. He said the state government allocated the office apartment to him, gave him an official vehicle and that he enjoys monthly allowance from government.

Husaini however said he was not aware of the Bungudu incident because he was not briefed by the association's chairman in Bungudu Local Government.