

## Nigeria: Gunmen Sack Gov Suswam's Village, Kill 23

BY HOPE ABAH, 14 MARCH 2014

Makurdi — Gunmen suspected to be cattle breeders yesterday killed at least 23 people and sacked 29 communities including Governor Gabriel Suswam's Anyii village in Logo LGA of Benue State.

Residents said the attackers came through the river between the area and Nasarawa State without any resistance. They said the attackers easily killed their victims between Anyii and Ayilamo villages as they ambushed those working in their farms.

The casualty figure could be higher because more people who went to the farms were still missing at the time of filing this report, our correspondent said.

Suswam who was nearly moved to tears on sighting the number of displaced persons and level of destruction in the village persuaded the few people remaining not to despair, even as all the communities within 26 kilometers were completely deserted, leaving only his older brother, Dr. Terkula Suswam, at the mercy of the invaders. The governor assured his kinsmen that everything was being done in collaboration with the federal government to end the crisis.

The governor told the people that plans were underway to immediately establish camps at different locations in the state to cater for the displaced.

State secretary of the Myetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association, Garus Gololo, said the attackers were no longer the nomads registered under its care, saying, "It is becoming something else."

Gololo who decried the recent killings in the area said some wicked people from outside the state were taking advantage of the frequent conflicts between herders and farmers in the area to do the damage. He called for peace, adding that the association would soon embark on a census of members in the state in order to check infiltrators.



Photo: Aminu Abubakar/IRIN

A man stands outside his destroyed home (file photo).

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