

## TWO FEARED KILLED BY SUSPECTED CATTLE RUSTLERS



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At least two people were feared dead while several others sustained gunshot injuries when armed men suspected to be cattle rustlers attacked Filinga village in Shinkafi local government area of Zamfara state.

The gunmen said to be 60 in number had attacked the village on motorcycles Friday noon.

"They came on motorcycles dressed in military and police uniforms. they were armed with sophisticated weapons and divided themselves into two groups, 30 surrounded the village and another 30 came into the village and started shooting sporadically," Malam Abubakar Nuhu a resident of one of the nearby villages told Sunday Trust.

Nuhu, who was speaking on phone from Tudi Bali in Isa local government of Sokoto state, said that the village was overwhelmed with people that were displaced by the attack. It added that they could not observe their Juma'at prayer in the Mosque because of a threatening message from the attackers.

"We ran to the hills and prayed there. We left our aged parents and women at home, because the message said since we are bragging of having brave young men in our village they would come to test the level of our bravery. This was why we fled our homes and ran to the hills where we said our Juma'at prayers,"he said.

According to him, up to the time of this conversation, people from the area were trooping in to take refuge in Tudi Bali and other neighbouring villages like Gidan Sale, Gidan Rana and Chohi in their hundreds as they have lost their properties to the attackers.

He said that the attackers whisked away over 5,000 cows after the attack, which he said had lasted for hours without any intervention by the security agents.

"It was a horrible experience as narrated to us by the victims. Right now women are still trekking down to our village in numbers, some with their children," he said.

He appealed to the Sokoto State government to come to their rescue by sending soldiers to the area and relief materials for the displaced people.

When contacted, the spokesman of Zamfara State Police Command, DSP Lawal Abubakar said the command was not aware of the attack but that he would contact the divisional police officer in charge of the area and get back to our reporter, but at the time of failing this report, he never got back.

The state Commissioner for Information, Ibrahim Muhammad Birnin Magaji who was also contacted said he could not identify the village and promised to call the chairman of Shinkafi local government to find out if the village was truly in Shinkafi .

He, however, failed to answer subsequent calls nor respond to the text message sent to him.

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