

Mobs killing IDPs, returnees in Michika — Group



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A group, Concerned Residents of Michika, has alleged extra judicial killing of displaced persons by mobs in Khurkasa and Kamale villages in Michika LGA of Adamawa State.

In a statement signed by its spokesman, Christopher Umar Tizhe, the group said organised killings were being carried out by villagers against the IDPs who are escaping Boko Haram brutality as well as those returning to their homes after liberation of the areas.

"In Khurkasa village of Vi District for instance, 16 people, mostly women and children passing through the village where killed and burnt by mobs. Similarly, another group of 17 people including a pregnant woman returning to Michika from Cameroun after the announcement that Michika had been recaptured from Boko Haram were burnt alive in Kamale village by a mob claiming to be fighting Boko Haram", the group said.

The statement said the killers operate as vigilantes fighting Boko Haram in Michika area while targeting members of some ethnic and religious groups.

While applauding the progress made by the Nigerian Army in Michika, the group cautioned the military against being misled by selfish groups or individuals trying to use the insurgency as opportunity to witch hunt innocent people.

It called on political and religious leaders to come together with a view to finding solution to the ethno religious tension that had existed in Michika even before the Boko Haram insurgency.

Meanwhile, a displaced woman from Madagali area, Hadiza Ibrahim, told Daily Trust that she had to disguise while fleeing her home to avoid being attacked by villagers in Garta village.

Chairman of Michika LGA, Vandi Pavanza, said he was not aware of the incident, saying he was himself taking refuge in Yola. The army spokesman in Yola, Captain Nuhu Jafaru, could not be reached for comment.

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