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21 IDPs killed searching for food in Yobe

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Written by Hamisu Kabir Matazu, Damaturu Hits: 515

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Twenty one Internally Displaced Persons IDPs who were staying with relatives in Damaturu were killed by people said to be in military uniform in Bultaram village, Gujba LGA of Yobe State at the weekend.

The displaced persons from Lazarawa, Ngirbua, Maram and Garin Kuyama had gone back home to get foodstuff from their silos, having been convinced that the areas had been liberated by the military.

Witnesses and local officials said the victims went to get foodstuff in a convoy of vehicles but were intercepted and killed in Bultaram village on their way back to Damaturu.

"They opened fire on all of them, we cannot tell whether they were soldiers or not but, the attackers were all in military uniform. We immediately reported the matter to our local government authorities", a witness said.

He said the bodies had not been buried as they were awaiting clearance from the military authorities operating in the area. A relative of one of the victims said his brother and the 20 others worked on the information that the areas were safe and embarked on the journey.

"We all received the good news that military had taken over the place. That is why they went", he said.

The councillor representing Ngirbua, Malam Baba Nuhu, said they had reported the incident to security agencies.

"I don't know whether they contacted the security agencies before embarking on the journey. 17 of those killed were from Lazarawa, two from Ngirbua, one from Maram and one from Garin Kuyama", he added.

He advised the people to clear with security operatives before embarking on similar journeys.

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