

# RUSTLERS ON RAMPAGE, KILL VILLAGE HEAD, 6 OTHERS IN ABUJA

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An elderly woman, who was shot on the leg by the rustlers during the operation at the community.

Gunmen suspected to be cattle rustlers, on Monday, attacked residents of Sukuku in Kwali Area Council, killing the village head, Mr. Emmma Sarki and six others.

Our reporter learnt that an elderly man and woman, who sustained bullet wounds, were taken to Rhema Foundation Hospital in Kwali town for treatment.

A resident of the community, Mr. Haruna Dauda, said the incident happened around 5:34 p.m. when the rustlers, in their large number, invaded the community armed with

weapons.

He said the rustlers were moving with stolen cows in the bush and one of them entered a farm in the area and removed planted yam seeds.

The villager said that a farmer, who was working inside the farm, approached him and demanded why he was removing the planted seeds, adding that an argument ensued between them and that "when the rustler attempted to fight with the farmer, his younger brother ran back home to report the incident and some youth mobilised themselves and went to the farm."

Dauda said on getting to the farm, other members of the gang that were hiding inside the bush suddenly emerged and started shooting. He said the gunshots forced the youth back to the village but that some few minutes later the rustlers attacked the village and killed the village head and six other natives.

Our reporter learnt that the slain village head had just returned from the farm when he was shot dead. It was further learnt that the incident forced children, women and some men in the community to flee the area.

"As I am talking to you right now, two persons are still missing, we don't know if they are alive or dead because the entire residents fled into the bush when the rustlers came and started shooting," Dauda told City News yesterday.

City News learnt that the remains of the village head and others killed have been buried in the community.

Our reporter visited Rhema Foundation Hospital at Kwali where the elderly woman and a man hit by the thieves' bullets were receiving treatment.

Reacting, the newly elected member for the House of Representatives for Abuja South

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constituency, Alhaji Zakari Angulu Dobi, condemned the attack.

Dobi, who was speaking after he visited the community on Tuesday to condole with the families of the victims, urged the police to fish out those behind the dastardly act.

"What I saw when I visited the village was quite unfortunate. I saw six graves, where the victims, including the head of the community were buried. I have met with the Kwali divisional police officer and asked him to mobilize his men to the village to enable the residents to remain in their homes," he also said.


He promised to sponsor a bill that would checkmate the use of arms and ammunitions by unauthorised individuals as soon as the 8th National Assembly is inaugurated.


The chairman of Kwali Area Council, Mr. Ibrahim Daniel, also condemned the attack, saying security agents have been deployed and normalcy has since returned to the community.

"Immediately the incident broke out, there were rumours that it was a communal clash, which was not true; it was an attack carried out by some cattle rustlers and I have mobilised security agents to the village," he said.

The council boss said that he has reported the incident to the FCT police commissioner and urged residents of the community to go about their normal businesses.

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