

torn apart by a crisis at one time.

### Flight from Maru

In Minna, the gathered herdsmen speak of the rampaging vigilante in Maru, Zamfara state, whose combined activities, helped to expel many of the nomads into Niger state. Muhammadu Maude comments 'The vigilante group invaded my camp and killed 20 of my relatives. They also burnt down the entire camp, and they took away most of my cows.' Right now he herds a few of his remaining cows around the Niger state capital. Muhammadu Dan Iro 'had to leave Maru on account of attacks by the vigilante group, who killed 2 of his relatives,' but he had to flee into Minna alongside his 2 wives. Aliyu Usman Maru also had his camp invaded by the vigilante and his 380 cows stolen. A consequence of this is that his 3 wives are all living with him in Minna. Ahmadu Abdullahi migrated from Birnin Gwari to Minna, after he lost his herds to another violent vigilante group 'the thieves invaded my house. When they came all the children escaped. They asked for money. Then I was beaten up and taken to hospital.' An emailed answer to a set of questions in 2014 sent in by Saleh Momale, Acting Executive Secretary, The Pastoral Resolve, provides a picture of events in the area 'In Maru local government in Zamfara state, for example, records obtained by The Pastoral Resolve indicated that from 2012 to february 2014 , some 3,817 cows belonging to herdsmen were stolen. In most of the cases the entire herds were forcefully taken away by the armed bandits, leaving hundreds of pastoral families with no means of livelihood.' Mohammed Tukur Abubakar is Sarkin Fulani, and Chairman Miyetti Allah Kautal Hoore Socio cultural Association. He says flight by the nomads 'is a new thing. Its not been happening here in Niger state, unlike in those states.

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