

# Gunmen kill 11 in fresh attack on Benue villages

From Hope Abah Emmanuel,  
Makurdi

**G**unmen have killed 11 people in separate fresh attacks on some villages in two local government areas of Benue State.

The attacks happened in Anyom community of Mbatyula Council Ward in Katsina-Ala and Zongo-Akiki village in Mbalagh Council Ward in Makurdi Local Government Area.

① A witness said five bodies were recovered from the Zongo-Akiki village attack and

already deposited a hospital morgue in North bank suburb of Makurdi while another five people are missing.

The witness said the attackers invaded the Zongo-Akiki village situated behind the Army barracks in North Bank in the early hours of Thursday, killing five persons and injuring others.

Similarly, the Chief Press Secretary (CPS) to the Council Chairman of Katsina-Ala LGA, Tertsea Benga, confirmed that six persons killed in Anyom community of Mbatyula Council Ward in Katsina-Ala brought the total of those

killed in both incidents to 11.

Benga said the attackers stormed the victims' farmlands, allowed their cows free access to the villagers' farm produce, killed people and took away some women.

He said the whereabouts of others remained unknown.

He explained that the incident happened between 3 pm and 4 pm on Wednesday in Anyom, a Katsina-Ala community that borders Taraba State.

"Six people were confirmed dead at the moment while whereabouts of some remained unknown," the CPS

said.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) for Benue Command, DSP Catherine Anene confirmed the killing of five people in the Makurdi incident.

Anene said: "Five persons have been confirmed dead at North Bank when armed men invaded the village and shot them on their way to their farm. Corpses of the victims have been removed to Federal Medical Centre Morgue while police teams have moved to the area to prevent further breakdown of law and order."