

# Gunmen kill tax collector, 3 others in Benue

**From Hope Abah Emmanuel,  
Makurdi**

Gunmen yesterday shot dead a tax collector and three other persons in Imande Kundi village, Katsina Ala Local Government Area of Benue State.

Locals alleged that the gunmen were members of the late criminal kingpin, Terwase Akwaza, popularly known as "Gana" who were also fingered in the murder of nine mourners on Saturday at the same council area.

They said the fresh killings of innocent villagers were reprisal of Gana's men taken out by the military who carried out an operation in the area few days ago.

The military, who had told newsmen that three of Gana's henchmen were neutralised on Thursday and Friday when troops of Operation Whirl Stroke (OPWS) encountered the gang in a gun battle, denied the claim.

Force Commander of OPWS, Major General Kevin Aligbe, said the military operation carried out in the vicinity had nothing in common with what the 'bad boys' did.

The chairman of Katsina-Ala LGA, Alfred Atera, who confirmed the latest incident to journalists in Makurdi, however said the matter had been reported to the area commander and divisional police officers of the area.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer, Benue command, SP Catherine Anene, had not yet respond to calls put through her telephone at the time of filing this report.