

Bandits kill 15 in fresh attack on Benue LG

From Hope Abah
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At least 15 people have been killed in a fresh attack by bandits on two different communities in Logo Local Government Area of Benue State on Wednesday.

Villagers said the attacks happened Wednesday night simultaneously in the two villages of Logo during which the victims were hacked to death and many others injured.

A community leader in Logo who pleaded anonymity told our correspondent on the telephone that 12 people were killed in Mchia village in Mbagber Council Ward while the remaining three bringing the number to 15 were murdered in Mou village in Ukemberagya/Tswarev Council Ward, both of Logo LGA.

The local chief said 15 injured people including children were receiving treatment at a hospital in Logo.

However, the Special Adviser on Security Matters to the governor, Lt. Col. Paul Hemba (rtd), who confirmed the attacks, said 14 people were killed and 15 others injured in the two communities.

Hemba added that on the same night, he received a distress call

that two communities in Guma LGA were under attack.

"The soldiers engaged the bandits in a gun battle and so many of them were killed.

"But the bandits burnt five motorcycles belonging to the soldiers. This happened because the terrains were bad so

the soldiers got to a point where they packed their vehicles and motorcycles, and continued chasing them (bandits). However, some of the attackers came from behind and burnt their motorcycles," he said.

Reacting to the development, the Force Commander of Operation

Whirl Stroke (OPWS), Major General Kevin Aligbe, said troops had conducted a weeklong operation in Logo about two weeks ago.

"If you noticed, these terrorists have killed between two and four people every three to four days. So, we needed to just clear that side.

"Before you know it, you will just hear that they have attacked and run away. The pattern of settlement is not also helping matters. They go to isolated areas where they know that security is not near and they kill innocent farmers and other innocent people," Aligbe said.

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