

① Eight feared killed, four injured in fresh attack on Plateau community

Isaac Shobayo | Jos

THE 63rd Independence anniversary of Nigeria in Plateau State suddenly turned bleak on Sunday when gunmen in large numbers stormed Adu village in Kwall district of Bassa Local Government Area and reportedly killed eight persons and injured four others.

An eyewitness who escaped the onslaught said the gunmen invaded the village at about 8:00p.m. and blocked all entry and

exit routes before they unleashed mayhem on residents.

The source stated that in the operation that lasted for about one hour, sporadic gunshots from the hoodlums rent the air, which then caused panic, not only in Adu, but in the entire district.

He said: "They [gunmen] came into the village at about 8:00p.m. when it was raining and killed a family of six in their house, another two persons on their way out of the community, while four others were injured and are now

receiving treatment at a nearby hospital."

National president of Irigwe Development Association (IDA), Mr Robert Arshi, confirmed the incident.

Explaining the circumstances that led to the attack, Arshi said it was a reprisal after a Fulani man was killed in neighbouring Kigam village in southern Kaduna State.

Arshi said: "Three days ago, the Fulani were trooping into Kwall community, but because of what had happened, our people said they should go back to where they were coming

from. So in the process, their cows got scattered and they complained that they couldn't locate some of them.

"The military came in and later discovered that two cows were slaughtered in the bush, so it became a problem. When we noticed this, the peace committee that was set up during the Lalong administration between the Irigwe and Fulani summoned a meeting involving the military, traditional rulers, the Ardos and other stakeholders.

"We sat at Bassa council and appealed to one an-

other that this should not be allowed to escalate.

"But on Sunday, around 8:00p.m., they attacked Adu village and eight persons were killed, while the four who sustained injuries are now receiving treatment.

"Before the attack, we told them in the course of the meeting that we would investigate and fish out those who killed the two cows, yet they went ahead to kill our people.

"Since we signed the peace path, my people have not killed any of them. We have told our boys to refrain from anything that

might cause problems. How can we compare the lives of humans with cows? There is no humanity in some people."

Arshi, therefore, appealed to both the state and federal governments to investigate the latest incident and bring those behind it to book.

When contacted, spokesman for the state police command, Alfred Alabo, said: "I will get back to you when I confirm the incident."

He was, however, yet to get back as of the time of filing in this report.

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