

# Gunmen kill 27 farmers, burn houses in Plateau

From Ado Abubakar Musa, Jos

① Gunmen reportedly attacked Bindi-Iebbu in the Tahoss community of Riyom Local Government Area of Plateau State, killing no fewer than 27 farmers, including women and children.

② The Tuesday assault came just a day after another attack on Gwon village in Rim community, also in Riyom LGA, where at least three people were killed.

Our correspondent reports that many others were injured in the latest attack and rushed to various hospitals, including Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH), Plateau Hospital, and other health facilities across the state.

Chairman of Riyom LGA, Bature Sati Shuwa, confirmed the incident but could not provide a casualty figure at

the time, stating he was en route to the affected community and still gathering information.

However, Dalyop Solomon, National President of the Berom Youth Moulder-Association (BYM), who spoke to journalists in Jos, said he was at the scene and confirmed that 27 corpses had been recovered.

Solomon accused members of the Fulani ethnic group of carrying out the attack—an allegation denied by the leadership of the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN).

Solomon said the attackers stormed the community around 4:00 a.m. on Tuesday, shooting sporadically and setting several houses ablaze.

He added that hundreds of residents

have since fled the area for fear of further violence.

He said security personnel, including operatives of Operation Safe Haven and the police, arrived after the attack but were slow to respond when the gunmen first struck.

The BYM president said all the recovered bodies have been deposited in hospitals and that a burial date would be announced soon.

"Twenty-seven persons were killed, and many were injured. We can't confirm the exact number of those injured because they were taken to different hospitals.

"However, the death toll is confirmed to be 27. The bodies have been taken to various hospitals in preparation for burial. We plan to give them a state burial," he said.

The group decried the killings, describing them as a targeted campaign against the Berom people.

"The Berom people are being systematically hunted. It is apparent that war has been declared on us by these bloodthirsty terrorists, whose aim is to annihilate us from the face of the earth.

"Today, we weep for Jebbu, but our tears must now give way to righteous anger, resolve, and united action," the group said in a statement.

While condemning the attack, the group called for an urgent and independent investigation into the killings and demanded the arrest and prosecution of those responsible.

It also urged the government to compensate the families of those who lost their lives.