

Man Found Dead Inside Abuja Farm



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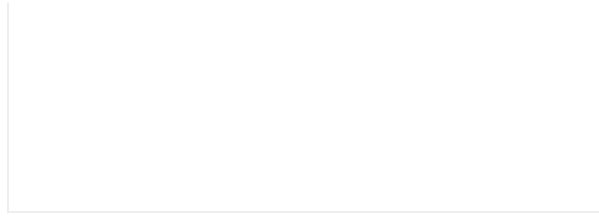


A 64-year-old farmer, Salihu Usman, was reportedly found dead inside his farm in Kitikpa community in Abaji Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

Ibrahim Danjuma, a relative of the deceased, said Usman's lifeless body was discovered on Saturday around 6pm. Danjuma explained that Usman was presumed to be hale and hearty when he left home around 4pm on his motorcycle to inspect work done by labourers on his farm, but failed to return.

“When the farmer didn't come back, family members immediately mobilized vigilantes to the farm, where his body was found,” Danjuma said.

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Danjuma noted that there were no signs of injury or bullet wounds on his body, adding that he was immediately taken to Gawu Clinic, where he was confirmed dead.

His remains were buried that Saturday evening in the community after security operatives photographed his body.

Herder gunned down while returning from market

In a separate incident, a herder identified only as Ahmadu was shot dead by suspected gunmen while returning from a market in Mayaki village, also in Abaji Area Council.

Abuja Metro reports that Mayaki village borders Kpada village in Gulu, Lapai Local Government Area of Niger State.

Usman Saidu, a vigilante from Mayaki village, confirmed the incident to our reporter via telephone on Saturday, stating that the incident happened last Thursday around 7pm.

Saidu explained that “The Fulani man was returning from the market where he had gone to sell one of his cows when he was ambushed by the gunmen who killed him, took away his money, and set his bike on fire before they fled,” he added.

Malam Jamilu Adamu, the Ardo of Fulani at Mayaki village, also confirmed the incident via telephone.

He said the deceased herder was returning from the market when some gunmen emerged from the bush and shot him dead.

“They killed him instantly and set his motorcycle ablaze, after which they took away the money on him,” he stated.

Adamu said the herder’s remains had been buried in the community and linked the suspects to cattle rustlers who have been terrorizing herders in the area.

“Yes, I said this because this is the third or fourth time the Fulani people are being attacked by cattle rustlers, who sometimes invade herders’ camps to steal cows. Sometimes when they miss stealing the cows, they target herders returning from markets and attack them,” he added.

It would be recalled that a herder and a vigilante were reportedly killed three weeks ago in the same area while returning from a cattle market in a Niger State village. Members of the vigilante in the area attributed that incident to a reprisal attack by gunmen after two suspected rustlers were killed when they attempted to rustle cows at a Fulani settlement in the area.

The police in the area confirmed the latest attack but referred our reporter to the FCT police command for details.

However, the command’s spokesperson, SP Josephine Adeh, could not be reached for comment at the time of filing this report.