

15 Farmers Killed In Fresh Plateau Attack



A vigilante standing in front of a house burnt during the attack in seven communities of Mangu LGA of Plateau State.

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At least 15 farmers were reportedly killed in a fresh attack on seven villages of Manden, Jibin, Tim, Jiblang, Koppang, Mihdihin, and Jilem of Chakfem district of Mangu Local Government Area, Plateau State.

The attackers reportedly burnt down several houses and looted many animals in the villages belonging to community members.

Daily Trust gathered that the attack left many residents injured and forced over 3,000 people to flee their homes. The injured are currently receiving treatment at COCIN Hospital- Mwar-Chakfem.



The National President of Mwaghavul Development Association (MDA), Mr. Bulus Dabit, confirmed the incident to Daily Trust on Wednesday, stating that information about the attack was delayed due to the inaccessibility of the affected areas. He said the victims included women and children.

Narrating the incident, he said, “The incident occurred on Monday evening between 7:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., when many residents had already retired to bed. The assailants reportedly burned down several houses, including the traditional ruler’s residence and his official vehicle. Those who could run escaped, while those who couldn’t were killed.”

Dabit explained that security agencies were not able to reach the attacked communities because they were hard to reach. He said, “After the attack, we were not able to get to the villages because of the

nature of the terrain.”

He also explained that security personnel were able to reach the community on Tuesday, but added that “by the time security arrived, it was too late due to the area’s difficult terrain and hard-to-reach location. Chakfem district shares boundaries with Quanpan LGA and parts of Nasarawa State, which provides attackers with entry points into our communities.”

The National President called on the federal government to prevent what he described as incessant attacks and killings of their members.

He said, “Unless the federal government does something urgently to protect helpless communities. They will suffer total annihilation. These attacks are not normal, and its frequencies speak volumes of the intention of the attackers who have deliberately avoided any public discourse on their intention.”

Survivors narrate ordeal

Some survivors of the attack recounted their harrowing experience, describing how they narrowly escaped the onslaught.

His Royal Highness, Da Raymond Yombish, a survivor, shared his ordeal. He said, “When the attackers invaded the community, I managed to escape, leaving my official Jeep, but it was burnt down by the terror group. It was a devastating experience, given the large number of attackers.”

Another survivor, Sohotden Emmanuel, said he fled to a nearby farm for cover, stating that “When the attackers invaded our community, I ran to a farm and hid until they left. They attacked us by surprise, and their sheer numbers made them overwhelming. We were helpless, and only God could stop them. I called on the government to empower the community to defend itself.”

Mr. Dabit accused members of the Fulani community of launching the attack.

The National President of the MDA alleged that suspected attackers had made several attempts to invade their communities, but were unsuccessful until Monday night, when hundreds of attackers stormed the communities.

He said, “The attacked communities serve as their gateways. The attackers aim to reach the heart of Mangu. There have been several attempts at attacks before. This time, they succeeded. Their intention is to reach Mangu and eventually the heart of Mwaghavul. Their strategy is to move from one smaller community to another to achieve success, which is why they came in large numbers this time.”

He added that the attackers used four strategies to launch attacks in their bid to invade their territory. According to him, “There are four routes the Fulani use to invade. One is from the southern part, another from the west, and another from Gindiri and the northwest of Mangu. So, we have four gateways. Our people are always on the defensive. We don’t go out to attack the community.”

Reacting to the allegation, State Chairman of Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN), Ibrahim Yusuf Babayo, denied the allegation. He said they were not responsible for the attack.

He said, “We condemn the attack and console those who lost their lives. However, the allegation was baseless. We don’t know anything about the incident. I call on the relevant security agencies to investigate the incident.”

Security agencies in the state have yet to issue a statement regarding the attack.

Spokesperson of Operation Safe Haven (OPSH), Major Samson Zhakom, has yet to respond to a call and a text message by our correspondent at press time.

Daily Trust reports that villages of Mangu LGA have recently witnessed a spate of violent attacks and have suffered worsening security challenges in the state.

Bokkos communities ask military, police to pursue attackers

Communities in the Bokkos Local Government Area of Plateau State have appealed to the military and police to pursue their attackers as killings and attacks continue.

The communities under the aegis of Bokkos Concerned Youth made the appeal yesterday while addressing newsmen in Jos on the current situation in the area.

Our correspondent reports that various communities have suffered attacks resulting in the death of many people and the destruction of property.

According to the communities led by Mr Dapet Chris Ortega, “over 10 communities have been totally sacked and occupied by bandits while over 61 communities have suffered violent attacks, leaving several persons displaced in Bokkos.”

Mr. Otega said that for many years to date, innocent people have been subjected to senseless killings, displacements, and kidnappings of our people by bandits.

He gave the names of some of the attacked villages as Hokk, Nawula, Pangkap, Luwapan, Fokoldep, Dangru, Bodel, Duun, Dulu, and a few other communities.

He said, “The frequency and severity of the attacks have left us scared and our communities gripped with anxiety and uncertainty. With our naked eyes, we have seen innocent families of ten, nine, and more completely wiped away, leaving thousands of lives lost and properties worth billions destroyed by the activities of these bandits.”

Mr Otega, who is the spokesperson of the group, also accused the Fulani of launching several attacks in their communities.

But the state chairman of Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria, Ibrahim Yusuf Babayo, dismissed the allegations as baseless.

“We call on the government to empower communities with the tools, skills, and resources needed to rebuild and recover from these attacks. We also urge the government to engage with local leaders, civil society organisations, and traditional leaders to identify and address terrorists’ activities.

“We urge the government to invest in economic development, education, and social services in vulnerable communities. This investment can help to address the underlying drivers of poverty, inequality, and exclusion that can contribute to radicalization and insecurity,” the group said.