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Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Gunmen kill housewife in Plateau

- Kaduna warns troublemakers
From Isa Abdulsalami, Jos

A 55-YEAR-OLD housewife, Ngo Hannatu Philip, was reportedly shot dead at Vwan in Heipang District of Barkin Ladi Local Council of Plateau State on Monday morning by unknown gunmen.

Her killers also allegedly carted away 170 cows from the house of a member of the community, Pam Adamu.

Meanwhile, Kaduna State government yesterday, warned residents in the state to desist from fomenting trouble, saying that security agents have been placed on the alert to deal with any trouble maker.

Also, the Islamic Forum of Nigeria has suggested that Community Watch Fora be set up across the country to hold constant dialogue among communities with a view to forestalling any breach of the law and promoting harmonious coexistence.

In a statement, the Forum expressed concern over the recent killings in Plateau and asked the federal and Plateau State government to take appropriate action against those behind the mayhem.

The Forum also charged the Federal Government to expedite investigations and prosecute those connected with the alleged extra-judicial killings during the Boko Haram crisis.

The Vwan Village was yesterday in mourning mood following the killing of the housewife. The husband of the deceased, Da Philip Pam Fom, was all tears as he received sympathisers.

The Chief Whip and member representing Barkin Ladi in the Plateau State House of Assembly, Gyang Fulani, expressed shock at the re-occurring attacks on people of his constituency, advising the people to be alert and security conscious.

Fulani added: "The time has come that if the soldiers are not there, you have to defend yourself because we cannot allow people to come in and keep on killing innocent people like that."

Similar attacks had been carried out in Shol and Jol villages before the recent attacks on villages in Barkin Ladi and Jos South councils, including Dogo Nahauwa village where children and women were massacred in cold blood.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Assistant Superintendent, Mohammed Lerama, could not comment on the incident as he was reportedly out of town.

In a statement yesterday in Kaduna, the state Commissioner for Information and Home Affairs, Saidu Adamu, said the attention of the



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government has been drawn to text messages being sent to people on an impending crisis in the state.

The statement, entitled "shun rumour mongering" read in part: "The attention of the Kaduna State government has been drawn to text messages sent to people by mischief-makers on an impending crisis.

"The government wishes to call on the general public to ignore such rumours and go about their normal business without fear of being harassed. This call became necessary to allay people's fear created by these rumours. Government has taken appropriate measures to deal with anyone caught trying to cause chaos. Operation Yaki has equally been placed on alert to keep the peace and maintain law and order in the state.

"We know that this is the handiwork of mischief-makers who have been put out of business by the security vigil put up by the state. Government further wishes to call on responsible citizens of Kaduna State to report to the authorities any suspicious movement of people who are likely to cause chaos".

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