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10 feared killed, others missing in Benue

Wednesday, 24 April 2013 01:00 From Mohammed Abubakar, Joke Falaju (Abuja), Emmanuel Ande (Yola) and Joseph Wantu (Makurdi) [News](#) - [National](#)

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GUNMEN

- Parents slain, SSS uncovers Libyan arms in Adamawa
- Jonathan pledges action against soldiers over Baga killings
- President inaugurates security, small arms panels
- Anyaoku seeks return to six regions, true federalism

ABOUT 10 persons have been **killed** while several **others** are alleged to be **missing** following an attack by suspected Fulani herdsmen in Guma Local Council of **Benue** State.

The Guardian learnt that assailants ambushed Tiv farmers in Mbasenge community of Mbagwen in the early hours of Wednesday and **killed** the defenceless people and destroyed their houses and other property.

Mbaungwa Igboko, a victim of the incident who narrated the ordeal to journalists in Makurdi amid tears, said that his parents, Igboko Ananya and Kahemban Ananya, and his brother's wife, Mbalumunga Ananya, were gruesomely murdered during the attack.

“Two other persons, Kwaghsaa Iorbee and Orsaa Akosu, were also **killed** right before my eyes while many persons are **missing**”, she said.

Mbaungwa, who lamented that these incessant attacks are coming during the farming season, called for the immediate intervention of the State and Federal Governments in the matter, noting that the situation could bring hunger to the state.

The member representing Guma/Makurdi Federal Constituency, Emmanuel Jime, who expressed displeasure over the existing insecurity in the country, noted that a permanent solution to the crisis would soon be found.

But the State Police Public Relations Officer, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Daniel Ezeala, told The Guardian that the command was yet to receive any information about the incident.

And in Adamawa, the state command of the State Security Service (SSS) has uncovered massive arms and ammunition in Mayo-Belwa Local Council of Adamawa State. He said that the weapons belonged to the Libyan government.

The Adamawa State Director of SSS, Mr. Olugbenga Ajaiyioba, who disclosed this yesterday in Yola during a three-day security awareness workshop organised by the Department of State Services (DSS) in collaboration with the state government for commissioners and local council chairmen, said that the weapons were discovered by his men in a thick forest during their routine operations.

The weapons, he said, included Rapid Propelled Grenade (RPG) and massive ammunition that were imported into the country by those that planned to cause trouble and destabilise government.

“When we discovered these arms and ammunition, we took them to the army because they have specialists in arms and ammunition and they told us that the RPGs and the ammunition belong to the Republic of Libya. You can imagine the damage the arms and ammunition can cause if those arms were put into use by those that imported them,” he stated.

Ajaiyioba, who further disclosed that the North-East region was the major corridor of arms influx into the country, pointed out that the majority of the people from the region illegally employed foreigners from the neighbouring countries as their security guards whom he said were security threats to the country.

“Majority of you sitting here employed foreigners from the neighbouring countries like Chad and Niger without the knowledge of the security agents, but when they steal your property, you run to us for help without you bearing in mind that you illegally engaged their services,” he maintained.

The security chief, who blamed poverty, unemployment and underemployment for the crises in the country, warned political office holders against reckless statements that could threaten the unity and peace of the country.

To tackle the crises, he advised political office holders to execute projects that could better the lives of their people, warning politicians that they should remember that the rule of law would haunt them after their tenure in office if they failed to properly use public funds.

“After your tenure, remember that EFCC and ICPC are waiting for you, so know now that whatever you are doing now, it is you that will answer questions tomorrow, not your godfather that put you in that office,” he warned.

Ajaiyioba, who lamented that the Adamawa ruling People’s Democratic Party (PDP) chapter crisis was a security threat to the state, noted that the internal crisis of the party could cause havoc in the state considering the personalities involved in the power tussle.

“Adamawa State is like the country Nigeria with many tribes, so the introduction of religion into politics is a threat to the state”, he warned.

The security operative, who also blamed the media for escalating the crisis by reporting ghost figures of casualties during crises, cautioned journalists against any action that could create more crises in the country.

Besides, President Goodluck Jonathan Wednesday pledged a tough action against soldiers responsible for excessive use of force to contain Boko Haram’s insurgents in Baga, Borno State, last weekend.

Jonathan made the pledge at the formal inauguration of the Presidential Committees on Dialogue and Peaceful Resolution of Security Challenges in the North and Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons at the Council Chambers, Presidential Villa.

The President also reacted to the refusal of Shehu Sani, Executive Director of Civil Rights Congress (CRC) and Dr. Datti Ahmed, Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Shariah, to serve on the security committee reportedly on the claims that they were not consulted before their names were announced. In their places, however, two women activists were added to the list. These were Aisha Wakil, whose appointment was formally announced on Tuesday and Hajia Bilkisu Yusuf, a journalist-turned activist, whose name was announced at the Villa.

Alluding to the Baga incident, Jonathan said: “The issue that affected some parts of Borno State that is in the media today (yesterday) is being investigated. I will tell Nigerians and investing community that government will take steps to make sure that if errors are made, that such people are cautioned and treated in line with our own laws and regulations.”

Meanwhile, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has deployed a team of its officers and stakeholders to provide medical and relief assistance to the affected residents of Baga.

Anyaoku, who was special guest of honour at Island Club’s Diplomats Night on Tuesday, lamented that security challenges like the terrorism in some parts of the North, and the kidnapping of locals and foreign nationals, had become the painful point of contact with and communication about Nigeria and the outside world .

Expressing delight that such unsavoury developments had not managed to stop the inflow of foreign investments into the country, Anyaoku wondered how much longer the insecurity challenges could remain unsolved before they would hurt efforts of the country to attract foreign investors.

Calling for an end to the penchant Nigerians have to be in denial of the country’s basic problems, Anyaoku said the issue of political stability remained to be dealt with.

He expressed doubts that the existing structure of government in Nigeria could guarantee stability and peace.

He said this could only be achieved if Nigeria practised true federalism, stressing that a situation whereby the 36 states of the federation with the possible exception of Lagos State are economically dependent on the centre would not make for peace and stability.

“I believe, that the present structure fans the religious and the ethnic diversity we have because the competition to grab the power at the centre is destructive.

“I believe that the nation should return to six federating units so that we can recapture the development and stability which we had in the immediate years after the nation’s independence when we had a federation in which the regions were sufficiently viable and sufficiently powerful to develop at their own pace,” he said.

He spoke of how prosperous the regions were, with the North thriving on hides and skins and groundnuts, the West on cocoa, the East on palm produce and the Mid-West region on rubber ,

lamenting that all that had disappeared as Nigeria was now overwhelmingly dependent on oil.

He said the return to six regions would save Nigeria the trouble of trying to invest so much resources in administration .

“At the moment, the country spends over 70 per cent of its resources on administration because there are 36 states of assemblies , 36 judiciaries, 36 civil services and so on and all these are expensive and no country has developed which has spent 70 per cent of its revenue on recurrent expenditure”, he said.

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