

Gunmen kill eight in Benue, displace 12,000

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THREE communities of Guma Local Council Area of Benue State were attacked at the weekend by people suspected to be Fulani herdsmen. The attack claimed eight lives while over 12 thousand people were displaced from their area.

The Guardian investigation revealed that the most affected communities – Tse Akor, Tse-Kondon and Tse Umega – were completely razed down by the marauders who were suspected to have invaded the areas in their numbers in speed boats before carrying out the attack and in the process destroying property worth millions of naira.

Speaking with The Guardian, the local council chairman, Frank Usah Adi, expressed shock over the unending killings and damage of property of his people allegedly by Fulani mercenaries and called on the federal and state governments to act fast and adopt more proactive steps towards stopping the menace.

Adi, who called on federal and state emergency agencies as well as other organisations and philanthropic individuals to come to the aid of the displaced persons quartered into three camps at Gbajimba, Daudu and NKST Primary School Igungu, also noted that the influx into the three camps was intimidating and giving the council sleepless nights.

“As we are speaking here, the influx of displaced people into the camps at Gbajimba, Daudu, Igyungu Aze and other villages is giving the council a lot of sleepless nights as farming and economic activities in the local council are completely paralysed due the herdsmen incessant attacks on the people,” Adi lamented.

The chairman, however, warned the people of the area to avoid the temptation of embarking on any reprisal attacks on the Fulani herdsmen as that would be counter-productive; while assuring the victims of the council’s efforts to provide them with food items and some relief materials. He promised that a team of medical personnel would soon be sent to the camps to vaccinate children against communicable diseases.

The Executive Secretary of State Emergency Agency (SEMA), Adikpo Agbatse, who has already sent a team from his office for on-the-spot assessment of the situation of the camps, expressed shock over the condition of the victims. He assured them of prompt government’s attention to alleviate their sufferings