

25 feared killed by gunmen in Nasarawa

about 15 days ago

Recommend

7

Tweet

0

AT least 25 people were killed in Rukubi village in Doma Local Council of Nasarawa State Tuesday when gunmen believed to be Fulani herdsmen invaded the area attacked the residents.

But other sources said it was a clash between Tiv and Agatu farmers living in the area.

The police were said not to be forthcoming with information on the matter as the command's public relations officer was said to be attending a workshop in Makurdi, the Benue State capital.

Efforts to get the Commissioner of Police, Umar Shehu, also failed.

Several people were said to have also sustained gunshot injuries in the attack, which happened at about 5:30 a.m.

Women and children who were asleep at the time the hoodlums invaded the community were mostly affected. Reasons for the attack were not immediately ascertained.

The incident was said to be a result of harbouring of Fulani herdsmen by the Agatu ethnic nationality to sustain their attack on Tiv farmers whose attempts to resettle in their ancestral homes have been resisted by the herdsmen and their "collaborators" since the outbreak of the crisis that affected mostly the Ekye development area in Doma Local Council.

Rukubi, the affected community which is dominated by the Agatu people, is allegedly said to be a safe haven for the herdsmen as they are shielded by the Agatu, who dominate the area, to carry out their nefarious crimes. It was learnt that findings revealed that mercenaries were hired by some individuals to sack the Tiv farmers in the area.

About 18,000 farmers, mostly the Eggon and Tiv, are still taking refuge at different communities across the state following alleged persistent invasion of their communities by the Fulani.

President of Tiv Youth Organisation in the state, Peter Igbacher Kwembe, who condemned the incident, dismissed the allegation that the attack was carried out by the Tiv people, pointing out that his kinsmen have been forced out of their ancestral homes for over two years.

The allegation, according to him, was calculated to further hurt the Tiv people and give them a bad name in order to hang them and make the people a subject of hate.