

## Gunmen invade Plateau, kill 34

about 17 hours ago

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PEOPLE of Langtang South Local Council of Plateau State are fleeing their abode Thursday following attacks by unknown gunmen, which left at least 34 people dead.

An eyewitness, simply called Lohfa, said the unknown attackers laid siege on the villages of Bolgang, Magama and Karkashi shooting indiscriminately resulting in the mass casualties while the unhurt residents fled their homes to safety. "I counted not less than 34 corpses littered all over the three communities."

Mabudi, the headquarters of Langtang South Local Council, which is witnessing a high influx of those fleeing, is gripped with fear of the unknown.

Kuka town in Shendam Local Council was attacked last Sunday in a similar incident leading to another exodus of people from the area and they are yet to return.

On Wednesday, a gang invaded Rebet village of Barkin Ladi Local Council of the state where two people were slain while about 50 cattle were rustled.

It was gathered yesterday from eyewitnesses that many secondary school students who are presently writing their NECO examination and many others are feared killed in the attacks.

Mark Lipdo, Co-ordinator of Stephanus Foundation, a Jos-based non-governmental organisation (NGO), confirmed that over 25 people were killed, adding that the total death toll may be more as some other people are still missing.

Lipdo said the attackers followed their victims on motorcycles as they tried to escape and shot them to dead.

Many houses and vehicles were burnt as the three villages have been deserted. A resident, who did not want his name mentioned, said that the military allegedly did not quickly respond on time to distress call that the Fulani militia groups were at Shikal massing to attack the three villages and this led to the carnage.

It was further learnt that those killed at Magama are mostly children and elderly people. It was

also gathered that Church of Christ in Nation (COCIN) Langtang Chairman, Rev. Nandip Miri, lost his aged father and brother among other relatives to the attack.

Senator, representing Plateau Southern Zone in the National Assembly, Victor Lar, appealed to the people to remain calm and report any suspicious movement to security agencies for necessary action.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) of the State Command, Deputy Superintendent Felicia Anslem, when contacted, said she was yet to get full details of what happened.

Confirming the incident yesterday on phone, the Management Committee Chairman of Langtang South, Mr. Narman Darko, said 32 people were killed in the three villages.

Darko gave the breakdown as follows, Magama 23 people, Bolgang seven and two people were killed in between Magama and Karkashi, adding that over 100 houses were also burnt by the rampaging attackers.

According to him, he has informed the Special Task Force (STF) and they had moved in their men to prevent further destruction of lives and property in the area.

He urged the people of the three villages to be security conscious and report any suspicious movement to law enforcement agencies.

Spokesman of STF, Captain Salisu Ibrahim Mustapha, could not be reached on phone yesterday. However, his Deputy, Navy Lt. Jude Akpa, said although there were casualties, he could not confirm the figure, directing reporters to speak with Captain Mustapha.

## Comments