

Suspected Fulani herdsmen kill two, injure 16 in Plateau church

From Isa Abdulsalami Ahovi (Jos) and Ali Garba (Bauchi)

• Gunmen kill two in Gombe

TWO persons were killed and 16 others seriously injured when gunmen suspected to be Fulani herdsmen stormed a church at Maiakworigold Maikatako village in Bokkos Local Council of Plateau State at the early hours of yesterday.

One other person was killed in Manguna area of the same local government, making a total of three people who were killed yesterday.

Also yesterday, Police in Gombe confirmed murder of a popular Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) youth in the state, Alhaji Adamu Yusuf, by yet to be identified criminal gang.

It was gathered that during the cross over night at the Church of Christ In Nations (COCIN) in Maiakworigold

Maikatako, some gunmen stormed the church and started shooting sporadically.

An eye witness, Augustine Bim, who spoke to journalists yesterday said, "during the vigil to usher in the new year, some gunmen stormed the church and began to shoot in all directions leading to the death of two people while 16 people sustained injuries and are receiving treatment in a hospital."

Speaker of the Plateau State House of Assembly and member representing Bokkos State Constituency, Titus Ayuba Alams, confirmed that two people were killed while 16 people sustained injuries.

According to him, "five people are receiving treatment at the Plateau State Specialist

Hospital and are in a stable condition while 11 others are receiving treatment at Barkin Ladi General Hospital." He commended the security operatives for their efforts at containing the attack, urging them to do everything possible to fish out the perpetrators of the act.

The speaker also appealed to the youth in the area to remain calm and report any suspicious movement to law enforcement agent in their area. Alams further urged them to first of all secure themselves before securing their community, adding that they should avoid any late night gathering.

Spokesman of the Special Task Force (STF), Captain Salisu Ibrahim Mustapha, could not be reached for confirma-

tion of the incident. But the Deputy Police Public Relations Officer (DPPRO) Assistant Superintendent Esin, said since the speaker who is from that place confirmed it, "then it is true."

According to the Public Relations Officer of the Gombe State Police Command, Fwaje Atajiri, the killers of the PDP youth in their numbers attacked the residence of Yusuf in Checheniya area of the town around 11:45 p.m. on Tuesday and killed him with dangerous weapons.

He explained further that when one of Yusuf's neighbours, Mallam Usman Makama, heard about the fracas going on outside, he came out and was shouting for help from neighbours when the attackers pounced on him and instantly killed him too.

He said another neighbour, Abubakar Yayajo, who also came out, on hearing the

commotion, sustained serious injuries and is now receiving treatment at an undisclosed hospital.

Though no arrest has been made yet, the PPRO described the incident as very unfortunate, and assured that investigation into the gruesome murder is going on.

He warned perpetrators of such dastardly act to desist or face the wrath of the law as Police would not fold their arms and allow some miscreants disturb the prevailing peace being enjoyed in the state.

While calling on the general public to cooperate with the Police by furnishing them with useful information that could lead to arrest of the culprits, Yayajo promised that information by any one to the Police on perpetrators of the act will be treated with confidentiality and handsomely rewarded.

Plans to reduce cases of building collapse