

## NEWS.

# Seven die as Tiv, suspected Fulani herdsmen clash in Benue

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NO fewer than seven persons have reportedly been killed in the ongoing communal crisis that broke out between the Tiv and suspected Fulani herdsmen in Ananum Village of Donga Local Council of Taraba State.

Unlike other previous attacks that often led to massive destruction of property, which had forced a lot of people to relocate from the area to the neighbouring Benue and some to Jalingo, the state capital, as gathered by The Guardian, this one only concentrated on killing of people as houses were not torched.

Following the recent killings of policemen and scores of others in Bali Local Council by the herdsmen, efforts to escape reprisal attack by the police was said to have made the herdsmen to move en-masse from Bali to Donga.

The crisis, which occurred yesterday, was said to have inflicted various degree of injuries on both parties as the two sides, according to an eyewitness, "suffered great loss", stating that "even children and women were badly injured."

For the swift intervention of the monarch of the council, Stephen Danjuma Bayonga, the crisis as gathered by The Guardian, would have led to massive destructions of live and property.

According to The Guardian source, "the traditional ruler has ordered the security men in the area to arrest any person caught in the crisis", adding that "he has directed the security men to make sure that those arrested face the law."

Confirming the report to The Guardian, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Joseph Kwaji, said the crisis was a reprisal attack on the Tiv by the Fulani whom he said earlier on lost three of their men to the Tiv.

According to him, "the information at our disposal showed that it was a reprisal attack by the Fulani on the Tiv."

Stressing that the command has drafted enough security personnel to restore normalcy in the area, the suspected Fulani, according to him, "stormed the village last night and murdered four Tiv people."

Though a lot of persons were said to have sustained various degree of injuries and are presently receiving treatment in Donga General Hospital, the police however told The Guardian that only "two persons were injured."