

...attacks

community to conduct their business Barkin Kogi. They were attacked in the bush and one managed to escape with serious injuries.

A source from the area, who preferred anonymity, said: "Those that were killed were not members of Bakin Kogi community but they were palm wine tappers from another community.

"They were in the bush tapping palm wine when they were attacked by the gunmen. For now, I cannot tell you where the attackers came from, but

they are not from our community here.

"Policemen have visited the place and evacuated the bodies. The area is calm as I speak with you."

Another source claimed that the attackers, at around 9:00 a.m. stormed the village from the outskirts and shot sporadically at innocent persons, killing four and injuring one.

"Other people at the scene escaped unhurt while the victims died of bullet wounds", the source added.

When contacted on phone for confirmation, the Commissioner of Police, Austin Iwar, requested more time to respond, saying so many things were happening at the same time. "I cannot confirm this to you now. Give me till tomorrow," he said. But the police command's spokesman, Mukhtar Aliyu, was quoted to have confirmed the incident, though he could not give details at press time. "The District Police Officer and the Area Commander are collating assessment reports at the affected community," Aliyu said.

Three persons were also reportedly killed at the weekend when suspected herdsmen attacked Zangwra village in Bassa Local Government Area of Plateau State.

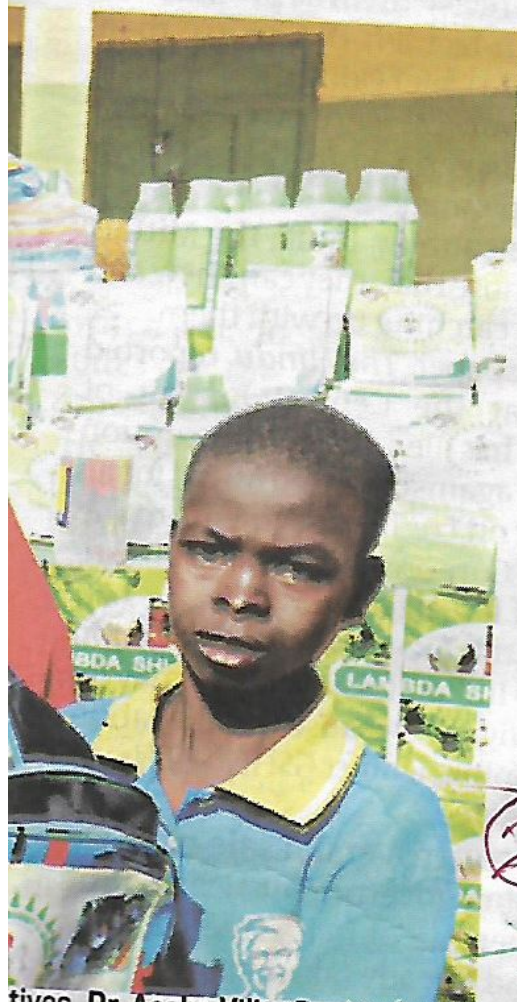
The national president of Irigwe Development Asso-

ciation (IDA), Sunday Abdu, stated in Jos: "Three people were killed on Saturday night by Fulani herdsmen. One of the victims was riding a bike while the two others were walking on the road. This happened at Zangwra village near a checkpoint in Bassa Local Government."

According to him, the attackers have changed the tactics of killing their targets on the farms to "ambushing our people on the road."

Abdu recalled that recently, three people were killed and their bodies burnt on Miango road in southwest of Barakin Dangurugu settlement in Jos North Local Council. "This is a road on which people travel to other places, including Abuja. How do you want them to travel? Which other facility do you want them to use when they want to travel? Something urgent has to be done by government and security operatives to arrest the bad situation."

The Spokesman of the Special Task Force (STF) code-named Operation Safe Haven (OPSH), Major Adam Umar, who confirmed the killing, said the crime was perpetrated by gunmen. He said his men mobilised as soon as they got wind of the attack but the assailants escaped before the security agents arrived on the scene.



atives, Dr. Asabe Vilita Bashir (left); a Abba and Federal Commissioner, representing educational materials to food items, empowerment and edu-
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