

Unknown gunmen kill six persons in Plateau communities

By Isa Abdulsalami
Ahovi, Jos

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Unknown gunmen have killed six people in Plateau State between Sunday night and yesterday morning.

The bandits ambushed four youths from Kwal village in Bassa Council of Plateau, who were returning late from a neighbouring village on motorcycles around 8p.m. and shot them.

Three of them died on the spot, while the fourth, who still had life in him, was rushed to a nearby clinic where he later died.

At Shimilang village of Mangu District, a 49-year-old Irish potato farmer, Michael Daya, was also shot dead yesterday morning in his farm.

Daya's neighbour, Mr. Dakrom Mang, who witnessed the incident, said that the late father of two was killed in his large potato farm, less than two kilometres from Mangu Divisional Police Station.

Mang told The Guardian that Daya had kept vigil the previous day against suspected potato thieves who always come in the night to harvest potatoes.

"When the thieves came this (yesterday) morning, the farmer pursued them and one of them left his shoes behind, which he picked and kept.

"He was making attempts to trace the owner of the shoes only for the same thieves to come back this morning and shot him (Daya) in the head in his farm and he died instantly.

"So, there is tension in the village over the incident. The people are blaming the police for not providing security in the village and Mangu District as a whole at this time of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) lockdown when security personnel are supposed to be on surveillance," he stated.

Mang stressed that dry season potato farming was the only business sustaining farmers in Mangu District as a whole, as a bag of potatoes goes for about and N35,000.

"This man has died, leaving his wife and two sons," he lamented.

In Naraguta village, Jos North Council, Ali Shekara, a miner, was shot dead by unknown persons on Sunday night he was while relaxing at his residence.

President of Irigwe Development Association (IDA) in Bassa Council, Sunday Abdu, told The Guardian yesterday that the people had resigned to fate, as they could not do anything to protect themselves from the bandits.

When contacted, the spokesman of Operation Safe Haven (OPSH), Maj. Ibrahim Shittu, did not pick his call.



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coronavirus patients,
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52 mins ago

Also, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) of Plateau, ASP Ubah Ogaba, asked for more time to respond, that he was in a meeting.

But a source close to the command told The Guardian that the said meeting might not be unconnected with the incidents.

The PPRO later said, “The Police are on top of the three incidents.”

