

15 feared slain in fresh attack on Kaduna community

By Saxone Akhaine
(Kaduna), Joseph Wantu
(Makurdi), Mansur
Aramide (Yola) and John
Akubo (Abuja)

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- **Herdsmen kill four in Benue, Adamawa**
- **SOKAPU condemns killings, lawmakers urge action on security panel report**

Gunmen have again attacked Gonan Togo village at Kufana community in Kajuru council area of Kaduna State, killing 15 people and injuring scores. The assailants, according to an eyewitness account, also rustled nine cows.

Chairmen of Kajuru and Kachia councils as well as the district head of Kufana, Titus Dauda, and the Commander, Artillery Regiment, Kaduna have reported visited the area to sympathise with the villagers.

The delegation enjoined the people to be vigilant, promising that the government would continue to protect lives and property. In his remarks, the district head, who cautioned against a reprisal, urged his subjects to remain law-abiding and allow security agencies do their work.

However, efforts to reach the spokesman of the state police command were futile, as he neither picked his calls nor responded to a text message sent to his mobile phone. But a senior officer at the command, who craved anonymity, put the casualty figure at 15.

In the same vein, suspected herdsmen have killed two villagers in Agasha community of Guma local council of Benue State. Another set of herders also murdered two people during a raid on Gon and Bolki settlements in Numan council of Adamawa State.

But troops of Operation Whirl Stroke (OPWS) on patrol yesterday morning gunned down four of the herdsmen in Benue. Confirming the killings, Commander of OPWS, Maj.-Gen. Adeyemi Yekini, told newsmen yesterday that he got wind of the attack and immediately mobilised to the scene, adding that the nomads had fled before their arrival.

He said the troops recovered two AK-47 rifles, four magazines and 65 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition from the bandits. On the other hand, The Guardian reliably gathered that houses were burnt while animals were stolen during the Adamawa attack.

Locals said one of the deceased was a contractor assigned to reconstruct one of the primary schools destroyed by the same herdsmen. According to them, all attempts to reach soldiers attached to a cattle camp in Abare axis proved abortive.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Suleiman Nguroje, said he was yet to be briefed on the attack. Moreover, the Southern Kaduna Peoples Union (SOKAPU) has



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condemned the invasion.

It communicated its displeasure in a statement by its spokesman, Luka Biniyat. For now, the Senate has beseeched the Federal Government to urgently implement the recommendations contained in the report of its Ad hoc Committee on Nigeria Security Challenges with a view to addressing the spate of killings in the country.



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The call came yesterday on the heels of two motions considered on the need to stem banditry in Niger and Katsina states. The motions were moved by Senators Sani Musa (APC – Niger East) and Bello Mandiya (APC – Katsina South).

The parliamentarians also called on the Chief of Army Staff, Lt.-Gen. Tukur Buratai, to launch an expedition similar to Operation Sharan Daji to contain the hoodlums within the Kamuku Forest axis of the North Central state.

