

Herders kill eight Zangon-Kataf natives, injure others

From Collins Olayinka (Abuja)
and Saxone Akhaine (Kaduna)

SUSPECTED Fulani herds-
men have killed eight
natives of Southern
Kaduna

The herders reportedly
invaded Kibori and Atagjah
villages in Atyap Chiefdom,
Zangon-Kataf Local Council
of Kaduna State.

The state's Police Public
Relations Officer (PPRO),
Mohammed Jalige, did not
answer calls for inquiries
on the incident.

But a community leader,
who pleaded anonymity,
said that Kibori and Asha
Awuce were attacked by
suspected Fulani militia on

Monday evening, who shot
sporadically, leading to the
killing of about five persons
while many others were
injured.

"Houses and foodstuff
were destroyed by the
attackers," he said. "At
Atagjah village, the suspect-
ed Fulani militia, on
Tuesday night, killed three
persons, while three others
that sustained injuries are
receiving treatment at a
hospital."

According to him, the
attacks in Atyap Chiefdom
have become a routine
affair by the suspected
Fulani militia.

He added: "Almost all the
villages that make up Atyap

'Farmers/herders' clashes claim 6,000 lives in N'Central'

Chiefdom have been
attacked, while lives and
property of unimaginable
magnitude were destroyed.
"The worst situation is that
the attacks are ongoing by
the suspected Fulani mili-
tia and the natives are left
to carry their cross, with lit-
tle or no security to protect
them from the hands of the
attackers."

CLASHES between herds-
men and farmers have
claimed 6,000 lives in the
North Central states of
Benue, Nasarawa and
Plateau in the last 20 years.

A report, entitled 'The Root
Cause of the

Farmers/Herders crisis in
North Central Nigeria',
compiled by Dr. Plangshak
Suchi and Dr. Sallek Musa,
has it that the number of
casualties of the clashes is
more than those lost to
Boko Haram.

The report, which was sup-
ported by Rosa Luxemburg
Foundation West Africa,
stated: "Since 2001, about
6,000 people have been
killed in the conflicts, sur-
passing the death toll from
the Boko Haram conflict in
a neighbouring zone of the
country."

Resident Representative of
Rosa Luxemburg

Foundation, Dr. Claus
Konig, expressed hope that
the report would foster dia-
logue among communities,
farmers and herders, and
other stakeholders to pro-
ffer alternatives for peaceful
resolution of the crisis.

Reviewer of the report,
Prof. Jibrin Ibrahim, noted
that the crisis predated the
colonial era and had per-
sisted till the present day
with no solution in sight.

He expressed displeasure
about the misconstrued
'body language' of
President Muhammadu
Buhari that allegedly
embolden pastoralists to
visit mayhem on their host
communities.