

Spokesperson of Kebbi State Police Command was not able to respond to enquiry on the attack. Terrorists also killed a young businessman and others in Shinkafi town of Zamfara State.

A local lamented that they had been facing insecurity in the area, despite the presence of operatives.

Meanwhile, Southern Kaduna indigenes, under the aegis of Atyap Community Development Association (ACDA), have blamed the military over the persistent attacks by the armed Fulani militias in Zangon Kataf, while condemning reports indicting monarchs and community leaders in the area.

Members of the association said, at a press briefing, yesterday: “It is with regret that we are addressing Nigerians and the international community on the persistent and recurring attacks and killings in some communities of Atyap land of Zangon Kataf Local Council, Kaduna State, by armed Fulani herdsmen, who have enjoyed decades of peaceful coexistence with our communities, but have now set out on a mission to displace these communities and take over the lands.”

The Chairman of ACDA, Samuel Achi, told journalists: “It is regrettable to state, for the records, that defenceless communities in Atyap have been suffering selective killings since 2017 before the sustained attacks by armed Fulani herdsmen in 2020.

“The military personnel drafted to provide security in the area are not helping matters. Instead of performing their primary assignment of securing life and property, they side the herdsmen. This is evident in the 2023 First Quarter Security Report presented to the Kaduna State Government by the Sector Commander, Operation Safe Haven (OPSH) in Southern Kaduna, Brig-Gen. Timothy Oporum, on the recent killings in Atyap land.”

According to him, the sector commander gave a lopsided report and was very economical with facts, which prompted the governor to pronounce the traditional and community leaders in Zangon Kataf as failures, for not preventing the youths from resorting to self-help.

Faulting the report presented to government by the army commander, Achi said: “Brig-Gen. Oporum deliberately failed, neglected and/or refused to highlight the contributions of the Traditional Council in Atyap land towards maintaining peace in the chieftdom, which facts are known to him and other security agencies in the area.

“The report did not convey the positive role played so far by the Traditional Council and other community leaders in dissipating the conflicts.”

They, however, called on Atyap people to exercise their “natural, fundamental and constitutional right of self-defence” against any further unprovoked attacks.

The added: “Enough is enough. We also want to make it very clear that, henceforth, any attack on any of our communities will attract a total no go area for rearing cows.”