

Fulani herdsmen kill pastor, nine others in Kaduna

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IN what has become a common occurrence in the southern part of Kaduna State, not less than 10 people were killed when suspected armed Fulani descended on three villages in Kufara community in Chikun local government area of the state.

Saturday Independent gathered that the attack, which started on Thursday at about 11pm, lasted throughout the early hours of Friday.

The state police spokesman, ASP Aminu Lawal, confirmed the incident on phone.

Aminu said his attention was drawn to the incident, saying that his men who were in the village notified him, but were yet to reach him with the details of what actually happened.

However, a correspondent with the Kaduna State Media Corporation (KSMC), who resides in the vicinity and immediately visited the scene of the attack, along with the Chairman of Chikun LGA, Auta Mamman Busa, spoke to journalists in the state on the situation.

The correspondent who did not want his name in print said: "Kufara is about three hours of difficult landscape to reach from

the local government headquarters, Kujama, which is about 45 minutes drive from Kaduna town.

"The Fulani men were over 20, the villagers told us, and they were all armed with AK47 rifles. I have with me here several shells of the bullets, as I speak.

"They came to the first village around 10pm on Thursday. They started shooting and killing people. They burnt houses and moved to the next village. Again, they started shooting and vandalising properties. Then they moved to the next. There they went to the home of pastor Innocent Chukwuemeka Mari,

of Assemblies of God Church in Kufara.

They killed him right in the presence of his wife and children. They shot the wife and left her for death. They also set the church on fire.

"They carried out the attacks until the early hours of this morning. Nobody challenged them," he said.

"Ten people were confirmed death, five were injured. Several homes were burnt.

"The five people injured are in critical condition. They have all been moved to Ahmadu Bello Teaching Hospital, Shika, near Zaria," the source said.