

60 Herdsmen Killed In Numan, Many Missing

In a similar development, residents on Tuesday said militiamen in Kikan community of Numan Local Government Area of Adamawa State killed over 60 herdsmen.

However, Adamawa State Police Command said only thirty were killed.

SP Abubakar Othman, the state Police Spokesman, told newsmen in Yola that the no arrests have been made but stressed that investigation is in progress aimed at fishing out the perpetrators.

According to Othman, those that lost their lives on the wee hours of Monday were mostly women and children.

However, sources within the community said the killing may not be unconnected with the ultimatum given to Fulani herdsmen by the host community to vacate their ancestral area due to their alleged uncompromising behaviour.

A resident, Oriwa Hammadu, said the militia members were chanting war songs on Monday evening as they launched attacks on the settlements in Shafaran, Shawal, Gumara, Kikam and Kadamti villages in the area.

“The attacks came when all the men were out of the areas. Many had gone to market and a wedding ceremony in Mayo-Belwa, so they took us by surprise,” said Hammadu.

“I was on my way back from Numan town market when I saw smokes billowing from our settlements. Later, I saw some Bachama militia members numbering about 150 coming from our settlements.

“So, I had to sneak to save my life. But they killed our children, women and burnt houses.

“They came with dangerous weapons including machetes, daggers and guns and were chanting war songs in Bachama dialect.

“Both the injured and the corpses were evacuated to Numan General Hospital,” Hammadu said.

Meanwhile, the North East Chairman of Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association, Mafinde Danburam, also disclosed that 45 of the dead have been buried according to Islamic injunction while many are still missing.

Danburam called on the government and security agents to as a matter of necessity deploy more security operatives to the area and environs to check further spread of the attack.

“We have just observed the funeral rites of 45 bodies of women and children here in Numan. We are still searching for the remaining missing people.

“We want government to as matter of urgency swing into action by investigating those involved so as to avoid reprisal.”

Danburam alleged that Bachama youths had been threatening herdsmen to vacate the area.

“In the build up to these attacks, the district head of Numan had earlier summoned Fulani leaders and ordered them to leave his domain. He even threatened that there would be attack.

“And all pleas by the Fulani were to no avail,” he said.

The state government delegation led by Deputy Governor Martins Babale for an on the spot assessment, commiserated with the Fulani herdsmen, assuring that the government will do everything within its power to ensure that those behind the act are apprehended.