

Outrage As Herdsmen Kill PDP Scribe, 24 Others In Adamawa

.30 Injured, Houses Razed, Residents Flee Village .Assailants Informed Us Of Attack Two Weeks Ago, We Told Police —Residents .Army Kills 10 Suspected Herders, Arrests Six, Seizes AK47 Rifles .Sending Troops After Killings Medicine After Death, Atiku Tells Buhari .PDP Demands Investigation Into Death Of Spokesman

By **Clement Ekong, Nicholas Uwerunonye** - March 1, 2018



Yola / Abuja – Sam Zadok, former Youth and Sports Commissioner in Adamawa State, was Tuesday confirmed killed along with over 24 others when suspected Fulani herdsmen attacked Gwamba community in Demsa Local Government Area of the state.

But some residents said the number of people killed was higher.

The former commissioner and three others including Pastor Enoch Shocks, Sabo Kwale, and Emmanuel and others were killed in the attack.

Several others sustained various degrees of injuries.

Sam Zadok served under former Governor Murtala Nyako, and was said to have been ambushed by suspected Fulani herdsmen on their way to the troubled area near Borrong town to broker peace.

Witnesses said the late former commissioner and his entourage were a stone's throw to the troubled zone when they were attacked and killed.

The herdsmen killed all the occupants of the vehicle, they said.

Until his death, on Tuesday, Sam Zadok was the Publicity Secretary of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Adamawa State, and was an ally of Senator Grace Bent.

Sam Zadok participated in the just concluded peace initiative between the Fulani herdsmen and farmers headed by David Umahi, the Ebonyi State governor.

Zadok had called for the immediate redeployment of the Brigade Commander of 232 Battalion, Yola, for allegedly taking sides with the herdsmen.

Speaking to **DAILY INDEPENDENT**, a resident of Gwamba community, Omayan Tambaya Dilli, said no fewer than 25 residents of the village were massacred.

Thirty others were injured while many houses were razed down and residents fled to a nearby village for safety, he said.

He emphasised that letters and phone calls were received from the assailants two weeks before the attack and stated that he reported same to the police division in Gwamba for necessary action.

He said he was surprised that no action was taken but that the military only came out after the attackers had left.

He lamented that the entire Gwamba village had been razed down and about 2,500 residents were displaced as a result of the attack while properties worth millions of naira were destroyed.

Dilli, a resident of Borrong, told **DAILY INDEPENDENT** that the attack took place between 7a.m and 8a.m on Tuesday and lasted till about 11a.m, without intervention.

"We received letters and phone calls from the suspected assailants two weeks before the attack and we reported same to the police division here in Gwamba. So, we were surprised that they came, attacked us for hours and left before the military came briefly and left.

"Towards the end of February the same community was attacked by herdsmen and one person was killed. Three days later, the herdsmen returned and now they are back again. We are at the mercy of the assailants", Dilli said.

Yanwari Lunakam, a local vigilante from Gwamba said 31 people had died and 24 others were injured.

Another resident who declined to be identified also put the death toll at more than 30.

"We tried our best to defend ourselves but their number was overwhelming," the person said.

The Adamawa chapter of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) confirmed the killing of its spokesman, Sam Zadok.

The State Secretary of the PDP, Abdullahi Dumbaba, told newsmen on Wednesday in Yala that

said.

He condemned the incident and called on government to urgently do something about the recent killings in the state.

Speaking on the incident, a youth leader in the area, Paul Turaki, said Zadok was killed with four others traveling in the same car in an ambush around Barre village in Demsa Local Government Area.

An army spokesman in the area, Brig. Gen. Texas Chukwu, said in a statement that 10 suspected gunmen involved in the attack were killed while six others were arrested.

The Brigade Commander, 23rd Armoured Brigade, Yola, Brig. Gen. Bello Mohammed also told Reuters on Wednesday soldiers under his command killed 10 herdsmen and arrested seven others after attackers struck Gwamba on Tuesday.

Military sources also said the Ayem A'Kpatuma Operations waylaid some Fulani herdsmen after they burnt down one of the villages in Gwamba and killed 10 and arrested six others with sophisticated weapons including AK47 riffles.

Confirming the incident, SP Othman Abubakar, the Police Spokesman in the state, said a combined team of military and police had moved to the village.

According to the PPRO, while trailing the assailants, one Bula youth was arrested with an AK47 gun with 41 rounds of 7.62mm bullets, and the team moved to Garikiji village where six herdsmen were also arrested.

Items recovered included one locally made rifle with 25 cartridges, a cutlass, bow and arrow, charms and looted clothes.

Sending Troops After Killings Medicine After Death, Atiku Tells Buhari

Meanwhile, former Vice President Atiku Abubakar has described as medicine after death the

He stated that such method is outdated and lacking in human intelligence capacity. His statement comes just as Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) requested a full investigation into the killing of Adamawa State party chapter spokesman, Sam Zadok.

The former vice president on the killings in Adamawa, Kaduna and other places in the country stated that the deployment of troops after lives have been lost "is tantamount to locking the stable door after the horse has bolted."

While praising the efforts of the security personnel and their sacrifices, he calls for improved strategies and the use of human intelligence to foil mass murderers before they strike.

In a statement from Atiku Media Organisation (AMO) entitled 'Enough of these senseless killings,' the former vice president condoled with the family of Zadok and the Adamawa State PDP family.

Atiku Abubakar also condemned similar crisis in Kaduna and other places that have led to avoidable loss of lives in the country.

AMO in its statement said that the former vice president is deeply embarrassed and utterly shocked by the continuing cycle of violence, revenge and counter revenge by ethnic warriors and militias in the country that has led to needless waste of precious human lives.

"Atiku Abubakar notes that the reckless disregard for the sanctity of life is not only disturbing, but it also shows the failure of local leaders to manage differences and grievances, adding that bloodshed cannot be the solution to those grievances", the statement reads in part.

Reacting to Zadok's killing, PDP in a statement sent to **DAILY INDEPENDENT** stated that the National Working Committee (NWC) of the party are in shock over the gruesome murder of Adamawa State Publicity Secretary.

In the statement signed by Kola Ologbodiyan, National Publicity Secretary of PDP, the party said that Zadok until his death was known for his patriotism, dedication to national development and pursuit of the revitalisation of our repositioned party in that state

“The PDP is particularly appalled by the fact that our nation is failing by the day following the inability of the incompetent APC-led Federal Government to ensure a peaceful Nigeria and to provide adequate security for our citizens,” the party said.

Comments

2 comments

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