

Herdsman Kill 10 In Benue Attack, Five In Nasarawa

.Ortom Describes Attack As Extension Of Terrorism By Boko Haram

By **Tor Vande-Acka** - April 12, 2018

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Makurdi – Suspected Fulani herdsmen have again killed ten persons, including two elderly men and two children, in Benue State. They also injured many others.

The herdsmen razed houses and destroyed properties worth millions of naira.

In Nasarawa, herdsmen killed five persons in a fresh attack on Kadarko village and environs in Obi Local Government Area on Tuesday.

The Benue incident took place on Tuesday night in Ukum and Logo local government areas of the state just as Governor Samuel Ortom was leaving the state on Wednesday ahead of his annual leave which begins today.

Three of the victims were from Twarev, Logo LGA, while the remaining seven victims were from Gbeji, Ukum LGAs of the state.

DAILY INDEPENDENT learnt that the attack in Gbeji started at about 6p.m and lasted for about three hours uninterrupted.

Deputy Governor, Benson Abounu, failed to answer calls when DAILY INDEPENDENT sought to speak with him concerning the killings.

It was later gathered that the deputy governor was in Abuja for an official assignment.

The state Police Commissioner, Fatai Awoseni, who confirmed the killings in the two LGAs said the police had so far recovered four bodies.

In a statement issued in Makurdi on Wednesday by Terver Akase, Chief Press Secretary (CPS) to Ortom, the governor described the renewed killings as an extension of terrorism by Boko Haram.

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The governor observed that the manner in which the armed men invaded communities in the state and slaughtered innocent people was not different from the mindless acts of Boko Haram in the North Eastern part of the country.

He argued that the attacks were similar to attacks by Boko Haram who sacked and occupied communities.

He said: "They come with sophisticated weapons and kill people, machete them and chase them away.

"In some cases, they do not have the herds. They just come with their weapons, kill and chase the people out and take over the land, and that is the worrisome part of it."

The governor further argued that the trend of attacks on Benue was beyond mere grazing of livestock, adding that if the invaders were only interested in grazing, the massive waste of lives and property would not have been their priority.

He condemned the recent attacks by the armed men on Gwer West LGA which left many people dead and property worth millions destroyed.

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Confirming the attack in Ukum LG, Council Chairman, Iberlogo Tortyokya, lamented the wanton killing of innocent people in the area, calling on the Federal Government to live up to its responsibility of protecting lives of its citizens.

It was gathered that those that lost their lives in Gbeji include Mtserkyaa Igbugh, Kananga Amarfu, Tyavyar Akau, Orfega Hiikyaa, Kanyitor Uor, and a 75-year-old whose identity was yet to be ascertained as at press time.

In Tsarev, Logo LGA of the state, some of the residents that spoke with DAILY INDEPENDENT revealed that the attackers came in the night ransacking the villages one after another and shooting sporadically into the air.

Chairman, Logo LGA, Richard Nyajo, who confirmed the attack, appealed to security agents to do more in safeguarding lives and property.

He said the killings have continued unabated in Tombo, Ukemberagya, Mbagber, Anyibe, Azege and Tsukwa communities, among others, where the herdsmen ambush and kill innocent persons plying routes on markets days.

Five Killed In Fresh Attack On Nasarawa Village

Meanwhile, the police command in Nasarawa State has confirmed five persons killed in a fresh attack on Kadarko village and environs in Obi Local Government Area on Tuesday.

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Kennedy Idirisu, the command's spokesman, told newsmen on Wednesday in Lafia that the attackers invaded the village at night and shot everyone on sight.

He said the command had deployed adequate personnel to quell the attacks, adding that relative normalcy had returned to the area.

He said that the command had arrested three suspects in connection with the Kadarko attacks, but explained that the situation was "a bit tense".

According to him, the state Commissioner of Police, Ahmed Bello, is already on his way to the affected areas for an on-the-spot assessment of the situation.

A resident of Kadarko village, who spoke on the Tuesday attack, said that the trouble started when a 17-year-old boy had his arm chopped off by unknown persons suspected to be herdsmen.

The source, who craved anonymity, said that the attackers later stormed the village at night, shooting sporadically at anyone on sight.

"Even the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camp was not spared," he said, adding that many people were injured in the stampede as women and children scampered for safety.

It would be recalled that Kadarko village was attacked on January 29 by gunmen that killed seven persons.