

Gunmen Kill 12 In Plateau Attacks, 10 In Ebonyi Community

By **Onoja Audu** - September 9, 2019

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Jos / Abakaliki – Twelve persons have reportedly been killed in fresh attacks by gunmen in Attakar in Ganawuri District of Riyom and Foron District of Barkin Ladi council of Plateau State.

This is as unknown gunmen on Saturday attacked Ukwuagaba Ngbo in Mgbo community of Ohaukwu Local Government Area of Ebonyi State and butchered ten persons.

Lawmaker representing Barkin Ladi and Riyom federal constituency at the House of Representatives, Dr. Simon Mwadkwon, disclosed this in Jos at the weekend while addressing newsmen on the ugly development in the last seven days.

The lawmaker noted that before the current turn of events in his constituency, they had thought that the attacks and the killings of his constituents had stopped, but little did they know that the evil men were going to return to cause fresh havoc at a time his constituents were preparing to start the harvest of their crops.

According to him, in Attakar ward of Riyom council, seven persons were killed at an internally displaced persons' camp, with 120 cows rustled.

Five others were said to have been killed in a similar fashion at VAT village of Foron District of Barkin Ladi Local Government Council.

He said several houses were also burnt down in the affected communities while fresh information available to them revealed that fresh attacks were being planned by the gunmen in Kadunung community, adding that security agencies had been contacted for quick intervention.

Dr. Mwadkwon added that those who attacked Foron district came through Jos East Local Government Council of the state.

He said a meeting of stakeholders from Jos East and neighbouring councils had been summoned to unearth how these attackers were able to pass through Jos East council to attack Foron unnoticed since these attackers were not spirits.

On the plight of the IDPs still in the camps, Dr. Mwadkwon said they had cried out in their numbers over the attacks and killings in his constituency but that nobody had shown any care.

He said everybody knew that the Fulani had been attacking and killing villagers across his constituency and states of the Middle Belt region.

Mwadkwon disclosed that not less than 13,000 displaced persons were still taking shelter at IDP camps in parts of his constituency, saying some of the victims were staying with family relations, others were taking shelter in camps, while others had taken to doing domestic work as house helps and security guards in order to earn a living. He added that there were cases of girls who were raped.

According to him, 43 communities had been sacked in his constituency with no help coming from any quarters to rebuild the burnt down houses to enable them return to their communities.

He lamented that even the secondary school he attended, Government College, Ropp, several years ago had been taken over by Fulani militia and nothing had been done by the state government and security agents to sack these bandits from the college.

Unknown Gunmen Invade Ebonyi Community, Kill 10

In a similar development, unknown gunmen on Saturday attacked Ukwuagba Ngbo in Mgbo community of Ohaukwu Local Government Area of Ebonyi State and butchered ten persons. Our correspondent gathered that another four persons traveling to Effium from Enugu State for burial have also gone missing around the area.

Clement Odah, chairman of the council, disclosed this on Sunday when he received the deputy governor of the state, Kelechi Igwe, at the council headquarters.

The deputy governor was in the council for a stakeholders' meeting over the incident.

Odah told the deputy governor that the four missing persons were on their way to a burial in Effium on August 27 when they

got missing.

He said they were in a party of 30 persons traveling for the burial when they had an accident at Rest House Junction along Enugu-Abakaliki Expressway.

According to him, they were all brought to Ezzamgbo General Hospital for treatment but the four of them were in a hurry to get to the burial so they left without the others.

He narrated that when the other 26 left for the burial they noticed a roadblock at Agbaesa in Mgbo where some youths tried to intercept them but they managed to bulldoze their way through the roadblock and got to the burial.

However, when they got there, they did not see the other four persons and since then their whereabouts have remained unknown.

Odah said that while the council and stakeholders were trying to investigate the matter in conjunction with security agencies, Ukwuagba community in Mgbo was attacked on Saturday night.

"Yesterday, Ukwuagba community in Mgbo was attacked and nine persons were killed and later another person died. They were massacred in their homes.

"There is a situation we were trying to manage that some persons who were our Ezza brothers were going to a burial at Effium from Enugu State. They were 30 persons in number on getting to Rest House in Ishielu LGA, they were involved in an accident, they took them to Ezzamgbo General Hospital.

"While they were there, four persons left them and moved ahead of the 30 to attend the burial leaving the other 26 behind. Then when the other 26 reached the venue of the burial, they couldn't

find the other four persons who left them at the hospital”, he stated.

Reacting, Igwe frowned at the fresh killings and threatened to arrest and imprison stakeholders of the area found complicit in the matter.

He gave stakeholders of the area 24 hours to produce the killers of the persons and the missing four others in the area.

“I am very embittered in my spirit. The first civilian governor from this state and the grandfather of Ebonyi State is from this local government area. And right inside here, I can see about seven past local government area chairmen.

“It is a shame on all of you. We did not come to paint pictures or clap for you. Do not deceive the government. It is pure falsehood, you know what is happening to yourselves, you are killing yourselves.

“You should know people who are causing trouble in your domain. The traditional rulers should be able to fish out people who are causing trouble. We have not come with the message of comfort but to sound a note of warning.

“We are tired of hearing sentimental stories of what is happening in Ohaukwu. What we want is action. Some people wrote an undertaking to the government. Most of you are here and for those who are not part of it, we will make you part of it. Because they had agreed that if anything as tragic as this happens in Ohaukwu again we should hold them responsible.

“All the people that signed that undertaking must produce those people that were killed and those that waylaid the people going to Effium. You can set up a vigilante to do that. Enough is enough. We must stop playing games”, he fumed.

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Onoja Audu is a correspondent with Independent Newspapers.

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