

ONOJA AUDU

JOS

Ten natives of Bassa Local Government Area of Plateau State have been shot dead by gunmen in an attack in Chando Zerreci village.

Daily Independent gathered that 19 other persons got injured during the attack.

A source said the gunmen, suspected to be herdsmen, were said to have launched the deadly attack while the Irigwe annual ritual festival

Gunmen Invade Plateau Community, Kill 10, Injure 19

that will usher them into the rainy farming season was going on.

The National Publicity Secretary of Irigwe Youth Movement, Comrade Lawrence Zongo, confirmed the attack in a statement made available to *Daily Independent* on Sunday in Jos.

The statement read, "The national leadership of Irigwe Youth Movement (IYM) condemns the attack of the Irig-

we people on her annual ritual festival, 'Zerreci,' the festival that will usher them into the rainy farming season."

He alleged that they were attacked by herdsmen late Saturday night about 11p.m. at Chando Zerreci in Bassa Local Government of Plateau state.

Zongo further added that the 10 persons were killed and 19 people survived gunshots wounds, and are currently

undergoing treatment at Enos Hospital Miango, while others are receiving treatment in Jos.

The statement further called on government to come to their rescue.

"The Nigerian government has a responsibility to promote and protect human rights, including the right to life, and a duty to protect civilians from attacks by taking effective measures to prevent and deter attacks on the Irig-

we people.

"The government must as a matter of urgency investigate the attack on Irigwe land and bring the perpetrators to justice and ensure families and other victims are adequately compensated.

"Brutal attacks on Irigwe communities are becoming rampant and frequent. This is unacceptable. The government must take more concrete steps to protect lives

and property across Irigwe chieftdom and neighbouring communities," he said.

The Irigwe nation further pleaded to the international community to come to the aid of the people and to support them with humanitarian aid.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Uba Ogaba, confirmed the attack, adding that the command had mobilised armed officers to the place to restore normalcy.

"We are on top of the situation," he added.