

Gunmen Kill 7 Travellers As Irate Youths Lynch 3 In Taraba

BY JOHN MKOM, Jalingo

Not fewer than seven travellers were killed at about 7:23 am by unknown gunmen suspected to be bandits at Sai village along Takum Wukari road in Taraba State.

The bandits that attacked the vehicle containing nine passengers emanated from a forest near the Sai village on motorcycles, carrying guns and machetes. The bandits while killing the travellers asked a woman and her baby to run from the area.

Those that were killed in the vehicle include a secondary principal, Mr. Samuel Mbapuun, (Tiv) Mr. Abba Yusuf, Registrar of College of Health Technology Takum (Jukun), a non-academic staff of the College identified

as Gembo, the driver of the vehicle and three others.

Sai is a Tiv community at the border area of Katsina/ala from Benue State and Takum from Taraba State.

The bandits after killing the seven passengers also proceeded and attacked farmers who were working close to where the seven passengers were killed, nine farmers were also cut with machetes by the bandits.

LEADERSHIP gathered that immediately after the attack at Sai village, irate youths suspected to be Jukun from Takum town started rioting, alleging that the killers were of Tiv extraction, and three persons were reported killed at Wukari junction within the Takum.

It was also reliably gathered that most people fled the town for fear of being

attacked.

A farmer who is also a victim of the attack, Mr Iorapuu Pila, who spoke to our correspondent on the phone, said the bandits came out from the forest located near Sai village along Takum Wukari road to attack the vehicle that was conveying the passengers from Takum to Wukari at about 7:23 am on Monday.

Pila who is currently receiving treatment at a hospital in Sai said himself and others were working on their farm close to where the incident occurred.

Though the PPRO denied knowledge of killings in Takum, she said, "One group of the people in Takum was accusing the other of being behind the killings of the travellers; that was the tension, though it been put under control.