

Community leader killed in Plateau



A community leader , Iliya Vomagai, was killed yesterday in Shonong, Plateau State.

The victim, according to eyewitnesses, was working in a garden behind his house, when some gunmen invaded his home and shot him several times.

The gunmen later returned to attack the community but were repelled by men of the local vigilance group.

The villagers alleged that the gunmen were armed Fulani herdsmen, who may have been training behind the forest near Rim village.

The community raised the alarm two weeks ago that a group of suspected armed Fulani were training in a forest near Rim in Riyom Local Government.

An eye witness David Agwong said: "The villagers alerted security agencies but they neglected our calls. Yesterday, the gunmen attacked us.

"The Special Task Force (STF) soldiers are conniving with these Fulani to kill us.

"They are aiding the Fulani to chase us out of this village and take over our community.

“We called them and they refused to respond and protect us. They want them to kill many of us as they did in February, when they killed over 30 people in Shonong.

“The gunmen would have killed several people, if not for the youths who repelled them.

“The soldiers were rather pleading with the gunmen instead of arresting them.”

The lawmaker, representing Riyom in the House of Assembly, Daniel Dem, said: “I am aware the gunmen invaded part of my constituency in Shonong, the same village they killed about 40 people in the last attack.”