

Gunmen kill leader of Kogi's Fulani

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The Kogi State chairman of Maiyati Allah, Alhaji Ibrahim Abubarkar Jalido, was murdered in the early hours of yesterday by unknown assailants.

He was killed at his residence at about 2.05am by suspected assassins who riddled his body with bullets.

The incident occurred at Road 3 of Peace Community along the Ganaja-Ajaokuta road in Lokaja.

Fear-stricken residents of Peace community said the gunmen, numbering about 10, may have used a detour to beat police operatives attached to C Division Lokoja.

The gunmen, according to them, used an unfamiliar route to gain access to the residence.

A resident, who spoke under anonymity, pointed fingers at Fulani herdsmen.

A neighbour of the deceased said they saw strange faces within the vicinity earlier in the day, not knowing they had evil intentions.

He said the deceased, survived by two wives and children, was macheted severally and shot in different parts of his body.

A doctor attached to the Federal Medical Centre (FMC) Lokoja, Sam Alhassan, who conducted autopsy on the deceased recounted what happened during the wee hours.

The doctor, whose house is close to the scene of the incident, said: "I was in my room, which is just steps away to his house and I started hearing gunshot.

"Then, I rose up from my bed and I began to look through the window. I saw a group of bandits in two lines.

"At least I saw eight people and they started shooting. The next thing that I saw was that a bullet hit the overhead tank and water started draining down.

"Later, my family and I went quiet for a while. Then one of the wives of the deceased came out and said 'they have killed my husband'.

"On saying that, my landlord who is a security officer, went inside to ascertain the man was actually dead.

"I went inside also. I saw Alhaji in a pool of blood, his body matcheted".

It was, however, unclear if the assailants made away with any money or property.

Relatives of the deceased kept mum when prodded if the gunmen made away with anything.

The Kogi State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), William Aya, who confirmed the incident, said the command was investigating the dastardly act.

The deceased, it was gathered, has been buried according to Islamic rites.