

Four members of a family were yesterday massacred in Bikka, Takum Local Government Area Taraba State, by rampaging herdsmen.

Taku is the home of Governor Darius Ishaku and former Defence Minister Gen. Theophilus Danjuma (rtd).

The attack comes 11 days after Danjuma indicted the armed forces of “colluding” with the killers and asking Nigerians to arm themselves and balance the terror.

Pictures of the dead went viral on social media.

Police Commissioner David Akinremi, who confirmed the attack, said the culprits struck about 1am.

Akinremi, who described the killers as “unknown gunmen”, said: “There is no confirmation as to who the killers are, and what their motive is.”

Chairman of Takum Shiban Tikare, who also confirmed the attack, said: “The attackers invaded the village at night and slaughtered four members of a family. We heard gunshots about 1am on Takum-Ussa road. While we were trying to mobilise policemen, we heard sporadic gunshots at Mbikka Central, a community on the outskirt of the town.

“When we got there, four people had been slaughtered like chickens – a man, his wife and two children.

“A baby mysteriously survived. The attackers, whom we suspect to be Fulani herdsmen, also attacked Basam and burnt the entire village.”

Shiban lamented that the killings were going on despite the extension of Exercise *Ayem Akpatuma* (Cat Race).

According to him, instead of combing the villages to flush out the attackers, the soldiers were busy brutalising his people.

He added that the people were disappointed with the exercise as it is not yielding the desired results.

Police spokesman David Misal said the casualty figure was still not clear “but four bodies were recovered.”

Misal added that the Divisional Police Officer in Takum and troops have been deployed in the area.