

An eyewitness said that the invasion was a reprisal attack by the militias.

The recent killing of four suspected kidnappers, allegedly of Fulani stock, along the Lokoja-Abuja highway by security agencies, following a tip off by vigilantes from Tawari community, was said to have angered the militia, who in turn attacked the community.

Another account has it sometimes last year, a herdsman was allegedly killed and his body mutilated by suspected ritualists for which his fellow herdsman pointed accusing fingers at the Tawari community and threatened a reprisal.

But, following persistent persuasion by the community head, Alhaji Yahaya Tawari, the herdsman lived with their host community in peace until few days ago when they started moving out en masses.

Efforts were said to have been made to pacify them but the herdsman said their movement was a way of life, assuring that it bore no ulterior motives.