

Gunmen kill 17 in Plateau, Zamfara attacks

• 50 abducted in Zamfara, Katsina

GUNMEN have killed 17 persons in attacks on Plateau and Zamfara communities.

① Six were killed in the Chando-Zrrechi area of Miango district in Bassa council of Plateau State, while 11 were killed in ② Dansadau Emirate of Maru council of Zamfara.

About 40 persons were abducted in the emirate, most of them women and children.

Ten students were abducted in Sakkai, Faskari council of Katsina State. A teacher was among the abductees.

Police spokesman Gambo Isah confirmed the incident.

All attacks happened on Tuesday, it was learnt.

The Plateau violence was launched by suspected herdsmen despite a curfew imposed on the council and two others to curb the wave of violence in the areas.

From Kolade Adeyemi, Jos

Danjuma Auta Dickson, Secretary-General of Irigwe Development Association, said in a statement yesterday in Jos that the attack was in response to the killing of travellers on Rukuba Road a few days ago.

"As the Irigwe continue to receive attacks from left right and centre over the unfortunate incidence of the Rukuba Road attack on innocent commuters which we know nothing about and have continued to distance ourselves from the ungodly act, on August 17, one of our villages, Chando-Zrrechi (Tafi-Gana) was attacked by Fulani herdsmen," he said.

Dickson said a man was killed in another village a day earlier.

The community leader

called on security operatives and government to put a stop to the attacks.

Police were yet to comment on the incidents before press time.

On the same night, seven staff members of Plateau Radio Television Corporation (PRTV) were reportedly attacked by miscreants in the Dadinkowa area of Jos.

The journalists were returning home in the night after work.

None of them was killed but their vehicle was reportedly damaged.

A local source said the bandits invaded the Dansadau village in large numbers about 11pm amid rapid gunfire.

The assailants set ablaze some houses, burning their occupants to death, it was gathered. Some others were shot.

Zamfara police spokesman Mohammed Shehu said the incident was being investigated.

The attack took place as Commissioner of Police Yaku-bu Elkana warned bandits to surrender their arms or face dire consequences.

In Plateau, Governor Simon Lalong continued meeting with community leaders, urging them to ensure that the violence abated.

He conferred separately with Irigwe and Fulani chiefs, telling them of the imperative of avoiding a return to the tribal and religious bloodbath of the past.

While also consulting with security chiefs, the governor pledged that the state would, among other things, compensate those who lost properties and rehabilitate the displaced ones.