

# Gunmen invaded our village, chopped off my left hand, shot my parents dead — 14 year-old victim

**F**OR the inhabitants of Mchia community in Logo Local Government Area, Benue State, Wednesday, September 22, 2022 will for long be remembered as a day that brought tears to many families in the community.

This followed a deadly attack by some gunmen which left about 15 people dead with 18 others receiving serious injuries.

While the community was smarting from the ugly incident, our correspondent visited the NKST Hospital in Anyiin where some injured survivors gave some chilling accounts.

Among them was 14-year-old Tersoo Uhange, a secondly school student who recalled that he had gone to bed around 8 pm on the faithful night.

Tersoo recalled that it started raining shortly after he went to bed and a while after, he started hearing gunshots but did not the exact direction they were coming from.

Scared by the continued sound of gunshots, he made his way out of the room in a bid to escape only to find himself surrounded by some gun-wielding men.

One of the gunmen, he said, grabbed him by his trouser while another chopped off his left hand with a big knife. They also inflicted another

▪ From Uja Emmanuel, Makurdi ▪

injury on the face and abandoned him in the bush while it rained.

He would woke up later to find himself on the hospital bed where he told that his father and mother were killed by the attackers. He said: "Those who attacked me and chopped off my hand were herdsmen. They had attempted to attack our community more than three times before they finally succeeded on September 22.

Another victim of the attack on admission in the hospital, 25 years old Mase Akaajime, told The Nation that he was a farmer with a wife and two children.

Akaajime recalled that he and other family members had gone to bed at about 8 pm while it was raining heavily. "But between 9.30 pm and 10 pm, I heard a sound of gunshots, accompanied by noises as if there was a commotion and people appeared to be running helter-skelter.

"Since it was raining and it was in the night, it was difficult to know what exactly was happening until a bullet pierced through into my house and hit my wife.

"The Bullet hit my wife while she was sleeping and some stray bullets also hit me in the head.

"The gunmen were shooting indiscriminately into houses. A melee ensued as people were trying to escape in the middle of night and in the rain, but the invaders started gunning them down," said Akaajime.

He also claimed that the people that attacked and killed them were herdsmen, because the community had suffered similar fate at their hands in January 2018.

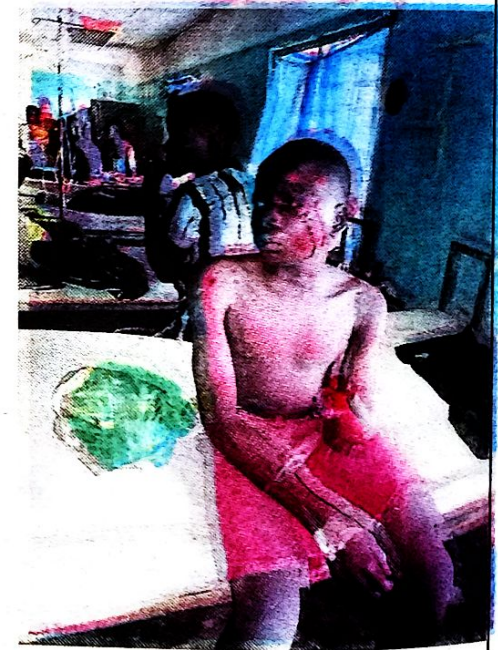
He called on the federal government to protect them from marauders who are bent on taking over their land.

The Chairperson of Logo Local Government Council, Mrs. Shiden Salome Tor, who visited the victims of the attack on admission in the hospital, said the matter had been reported to the Security Adviser to the governor for necessary action.

The Security Adviser to the Governor, Col. Paul Hembe (rtd), said the attacks and killings were unprovoked.

He said as soon as he was informed about the attacks in Logo Government Area, he mobilised the men of Operation Whirl Stroke, Civil Defence and other security personnel. But before they could reach the scene of the incident, the attackers had escaped.

The Public Relations Officer of the Benue State Police Command, Kate Anene, a Superintendent of Police, however declined comments on



the killings as she neither answered the calls made to her phone nor replied to the text messages sent to her.