

# ① Gunmen kill 24, kidnap Plateau monarch, •Kaduna priest, Bauchi community leaders abducted

From Kolade Adeyemi,  
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**A**RMED criminals weekend killed 24 persons and wounded several others in coordinated attacks on communities in Plateau and Bauchi states.

Twenty three of the victims comprising 21 locals and two herders were killed at Rim, Jol, Kwi and Fas communities in Riyom LGA as well as Gana-Ropp Community in Barkin Ladi LGA. of Plateau State, while the other deceased was mullu at Balma community in Bauchi State.

② Two persons were killed in Rim village, seven in Jol, 11 in Kwi while a Clegyman, Reverend Nichodemus Kim was killed in Gana-Ropp Barkin Ladi LGA.

The attacks on Rim, Jol and Kwi were simultaneously coordinated by the terrorists between the hours of 2pm and 8pm on Sunday.

In Kwi, an entire community, Hei-gwe was razed and over a hundred farmlands destroyed.

In Gana-Ropp, the clergyman, with the Church Of Christ In Nations (COCIN), was shot dead by armed militias who opened fire on him at his residence around 8pm.

Sunday's attacks were said to have lasted over four hours without the intervention of the Special Task Force, Operation Safe Haven-OPSH.

Gunmen also kidnapped a traditional ruler in Bokkos, Plateau, Pah Joshua Makut, the Parish Priest, Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Karku in Kauru LGA of Kaduna State, Fr. Jeremiah Yakubu, and three men including two community leaders in Ningi LGA of Bauchi State.

The National Publicity Secretary of Berom Youth Movement, (BYM), Rwang Teng-

wong, who confirmed the killings in a statement last night, said: "More worrisome is the fact that Mahanga which is the base of those terrorising these communities is known, yet, no effort has been made by security personnel to raid the place. Also, for over a decade now, the Special Task Force in the state has not addressed these killings.

This has left us with concerns if government can still keep to its primary responsibility of safeguarding lives and property.

"The BYM under the leadership of Solomon Dalyop Mwantiri, hereby condemns the coordinated attacks and other forms of provocation meted out on innocent persons of Plateau since after the 2023 General Elections.

"We call on the new administration both at federal and state level to come up with new strategies to address the security situation in the country and particularly, in Plateau State..."

Confirming the murder of two herders, Chairman, Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN); in Riyom, Bello Tafawa, said they were returning from rearing when the gunmen shot them to death.

Bello gave their names as Adam Sani Ahmad, 33, and Musa Ibrahim, 23.

"The gunmen attacked them when they came back home after rearing. The victims died instantly because of the gunshot wounds on their bodies. Adam Sani Ahmad left behind six children, while Musa Ibrahim left behind one child.

"This is an unprovoked attack on our members. We have already reported the case to the security agencies in the area,

including Operation Safe Haven, a multi-security taskforce maintaining peace in Plateau, because we don't want anybody to take the law into their hands," he said.

Plateau State Governor, Caleb Muftwang, confirmed the monarch's kidnap at a programme to celebrate Democracy Day yesterday, assuring that security operatives had swung into action to rescue him.

A source close to the palace of the Plateau monarch revealed that the gunmen forced their way in at about 10:30pm, Sunday and whisked the monarch away at gunpoint and in the presence of his family.

The source further stated that the gunmen forced the traditional ruler into a waiting vehicle and zoomed off before the vigilantes and hunters in the community could put their act together for a counterattack.

A community leader, Haruna Ibrahim, said the operation lasted about 10 minutes, adding that the invaders fired several gunshots into the air as they left to prevent locals from coming out.

He said the gunmen were yet to establish contact with the palace or any relative of the monarch for ransom.

The Public Relations Officer for the police command, DSP Alabo Alfred, could not be reached for comments.

But the Police Command in Bauchi confirmed the killing of a local and kidnap of three persons at Ningi LGA late on Saturday. Spokesman for the command, SP Ahmed Wakil, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) during an interview yesterday that a village head in Balma community, a ward head in Bakutunbe community and one other person were abducted.