

News

September 21, 2025 by [Uja Emmanuel, Makurdi](#)

Suspected herdsmen kill 16 in Benue communities



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• ***Angry protesters block federal highway with kinsmen's remains***

No fewer than 16 persons have been killed in Makurdi and Katsina Ala local government areas of **Benue State**.

Six people were killed in Abagena and Asom communities of Makurdi yesterday while 10 security operatives were murdered in Katsina Ala.

The Abagena and Asom attacks happened between 4 am and 5.30 am.

Abagena and Asom communities are located within Abagena Mega IDPs camp, which has come under sustained herders' attacks.

The incident sparked massive protests by members of the two communities.

The protesters, numbering well over 200, dumped the corpses of the people killed by the suspected herders on the Makurdi- Lafia- Abuja highway.

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The Nation learnt that the protesters took over the busy highway between Makurdi and Daudu at about 8am.

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The incident created traffic gridlock as many commuters were stranded on both sides of the four-lane highway.

Protesters who spoke to The Nation said they would remain on the road until the state and federal authorities intervened in their plight.

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Targema Unande, a community leader in Abagena, who spoke with our correspondent on phone, said: “The gunmen stormed the two communities at about 4 am and shot into the air sporadically.

“In the melee that ensued, those who attempted to escape were gunned down.”

He said the attack was not the first on the communities. “It has become a permanent feature. We appeal to security agencies to protect peasant farmers,” he said.

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Police spokesperson, Edet Edet, a DSP, said she was yet to get any information regarding the incident.

Speaking on the killings in Katsina Ala Local Government Area, the Chairman, Hon. Justine Shaku, said about 10 security personnel were killed by the hoodlums.

Hon Shaku made the disclosure in a post shared on his Facebook page.

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He noted that those killed were drawn from the Border Joint Military Clearance.

The Facebook post, which he personally signed, stated: “Yesterday, 19th September, 2025, a joint military clearance operation was carried out around the Agu Centre general area in Mbatula/Mberv Council Ward, Katsina-Ala LGA, close to Peva and Chanchangi settlements in Taraba State.

“According to reports, many officers who participated in the operation are still missing, including the well-known Danzuru, who was allegedly captured alive by armed bandits.

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“The operation was jointly resisted by local armed militias, Fulani marauders, and some hired military personnel allegedly brought in from Taraba State.

During the confrontation, three of these hired fighters were reportedly killed by the joint border troops.

“Several militia leaders from the Shitile clan—among them Konyo, Anyogo, Officer Mathew Zegebra, Gulenen Ashaver, and Fullfire—were identified as participants in the attack against conventional security forces.

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“Casualty reports indicate that more than ten security personnel lost their lives. So far, only two bodies have been recovered. In addition, two Hilux vehicles were burnt, and several motorcycles were carted away by the attackers.

“Reinforcements have since been deployed to the area to recover the remaining bodies still within the bushes.

“The Commissioner of Police, Benue State Command, is currently on the ground with us, and we await further updates on the situation.”