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10 persons feared dead, 20 missing, others injured in Taraba

Written by Celestine Inejirika-Jalingo | Thursday, 01 August 2013 00:00 | font size | Print | Email

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Ten persons have been reportedly killed in Tapga village in Ibi Local Government Council of Taraba State following an alleged attack by heavily armed persons from neighbouring Tarok village in Plateau State.

About 20 other persons have been reportedly missing while several others were said to have sustained varying degrees of injury in the attack and are presently undergoing medical attention in various clinics in both Wukari and Ibi Local Government Councils.

Confirming the incident to the Nigerian Tribune on phone, the chairman of Ibi Local Government Council, Alhaji Adamu Ishaku, said three persons were killed, adding that the attackers were from neighbouring Plateau State, who took the villagers unawares.

According to him, their plan was to "invade and attack Sarki-Kudu village in our council but they did not succeed in crossing the river. As a result, they resorted to launch an attack on Tapga village."

The chairman, who could not ascertain the reasons for the attack, expressed sadness that security operatives could not access the village to protect lives and properties due to complex terrain.

According to him, security operatives had complained that they could not reach the village except by helicopter because the road is completely inaccessible especially during this rainy season.

He, however, told Nigerian Tribune that Nahuta village where the attackers had earlier laid ambush, have been cordoned off by security operatives, as well as Sarki-Kudu village.

The Nigerian Tribune further gathered that the inability of security operatives to reach out to the people in Tapga, has forced the people to leave the village and take refuge in the palace of the village head of Jibu.

Though the state police commissioner, Jubril Adeniji and the commands PPRO, Joseph Kwaji, were not on seat when the Nigerian Tribune called to confirm the incident, a senior police officer, who bared his mind, said the command was on top of the situation.

One of the villagers who escape with his family said "we don't know why they decided to attack us, the attack was just like a dream to us," he said

As at press time, no drastic steps have taken by both the state government and federal security operatives to prevent further attacks on the people as the villagers have vowed not to return to the place until their lives and properties were secured.

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