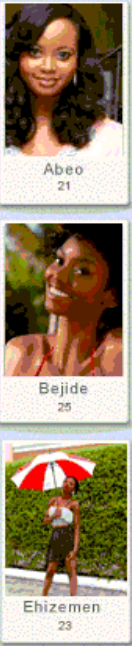


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14 killed, 230 cattle rustled in Plateau

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FOLLOWING invasion of **Yelwa town in Shendam** and Jos East local government areas of Plateau State by gunmen, no fewer than 14 people were killed and 230 cattle rustled at the weekend in the two council areas.

Nigerian Tribune learnt that the gunmen, armed with sophisticated weapons, stormed Yelwa town inhabited mostly by herdsmen in the early hours of Sunday and dispossessed the cattle rearers of their cattles after engaging them and killed 12 people in the melee which ensued.

It was further learnt that the gunmen destroyed many valuables, including houses before they bolted away, while a counter attack by the people of the town, especially those who owned the rustled cows yielded no result, as they could withstand the superior fire force of the marauders.

Another source from Shendam, who did not want his name in print, said the gunmen, who came in their numbers, were heavily armed with dangerous weapons and started shooting sporadically, burning houses in the early hours of the morning.

Still reeling from the Yelwa Shendam attack, another set of gunmen suspected to be Fulani herdsmen invaded Babayo-Zarazong village in Jos East Local Government Area of Plateau State and snuffed life out of two of the natives and set houses ablaze.

Nigerian Tribune gathered that the gunmen, who have been terrorising the village and other neighbouring villages sneaked into the hilly village at about 1.00 a.m, when the inhabitants had gone to bed and set houses on fire with the intention of smoking the people out of their residences.

A source, who escaped the attack by the whiskers said two people were killed and 15 houses reduced to ashes, adding that the marauders operated unhindered for close to 20 minutes before the arrival of the men of Special Task Force, who repelled them into the bush.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Abu Emmanuel, who confirmed both Yelwa Shemdam and Jos East attacks, said people were killed, but did not disclose the exact number of people, who were killed in the attack.

Emmanuel added that the state Commissioner of Police, Nasiru Oki, had deployed security operatives to the affected villages, adding that no arrest had been made, while the police were doing everything possible to bring the culprits to book.

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