



**NIGERIAN  
TRIBUNE**  
Nigeria's Most Informative Newspaper

🕒 Today: 13.Oct.2014



-- Features

**innJOO**  
Internet DNA Smartphone



Octa-Core  
3G Network  
Andriod 4.4 Kitkat  
1Gig RAM and 8Gg ROM

25,995  
**₦19,995**

**JUMIA**  
**> SHOP NOW**



## MOST POPULAR

Soldiers shoot selves •To avoid deployment to Boko Haram communities

Ibadan tanker explosion: God! I'm in pain –Victim •Man loses wife, 3 children •11 die, 16 sustain severe burns  
•45 shops, 15 cars, 12 motorcycles, 6 tricycles destroyed

Ogundipe emerges PDP S/West zonal chairman

I'll never leave PDP –OBJ

2015: Saraki opts out of presidential race •Kwankwaso declares Oct 23

Manslaughter: Pistorious in court today

## FEATURES

---

# The children of Benue... •Beaten, raped and killed

font size   | [Print](#) | [Email](#)

 12.Oct.2014 | [DISQUS\\_COMMENTS](#) | 

Rate this item      (0 votes)



Relief seems not to be in sight for the people of Makurdi and Guma local government areas of Benue State as suspected Fulani herdsmen are still terrorising them in droves. JOHNSON BABAJIDE reports the killing of two Benue women who were raped and killed by the herdsmen when they went out to fetch firewood.

FOR the family of John Jirgba, a peasant farmer at

Tse-Shima, Mbatohu, Mbalagh council ward of Makurdi, the last Thursday of September, 2014, would remain a sad day that neither time nor circumstance can obliterate from their memory.

The family of five had woken up with joy, but had no inkling that calamity was lurking around the corner until it eventually walked into their house leaving behind a trail of sorrow, tears and agony.

According to findings, two daughters of Jirgba (Nyieshileh, 14 and Jumai, 17) and his 18-year-old in-law, MNsendoo, and his in-law, Miss Msendoo, had gone to the farm to fetch firewood when the herdsmen numbering three accosted them in the bush. They raped and killed two of them, while Jumai escaped by a whisker, but not without wounds on her body.

Speaking with Sunday Tribune on her sick bed at the Makurdi General Hospital where she is recuperating, Miss Jirgba said the three of them had gone to the farm to fetch firewood when the unfortunate incident occurred.

According to her, "I went together with my sisters to fetch firewood when a Fulani man approached us and ordered that we put down the firewood we were carrying and follow him. We initially resisted but when he drew his dagger, we obeyed.

"At a point, we saw two of his colleagues who ordered my sisters to pull off their cloth and lie down. They asked me not to go anywhere, so I started crying as the other two were beating up my sisters and forcing them to sleep with them," she said.

Jumai, who narrated their ordeal at the hands of the herdsmen amidst sobs, said that the Fulani herdsmen butchered her sisters after sleeping with them, the development that made her to take to her heels.

"As I was running, the other one followed me and got hold of me. I did not know how I wriggled out of his arm and found myself on the road," she narrated.

It was later gathered that the deceased women were buried in a shallow grave by the herdsmen, and that when the parents of the victims waited endlessly for the return of their children a search party was organised and the case was reported at "C" Division of the Nigeria Police in North Bank, a suburb of Makurdi, where they got Jumai in the pool of her own blood gasping for breath.

The police were said to have combed the area and succeeded in discovering and exhuming the corpses the ladies, while one suspect, Adamu Ibrahim, 20, was arrested in connection with the murder. He was said to have led security operatives to the spot where the corpses of the women were buried.

Commenting on the development, member representing Makurdi North at the Benue State House of Assembly, Honourable Avine Agbom, attributed the unfortunate incident to lack of security in the area, submitting that the area where the incident happened was completely under the control of Fulani herdsmen.

According to him, "I sought and got the approval of the governor of Benue State, Dr Gabriel Suswam, to station security personnel at some designated areas in Mbalagh. The governor, who was also serious with the matter quickly, sent police personnel there and there was relative peace," he added.

The lawmaker also appealed to both the state governor and Commissioner of Police to establish police post in the community or patrol the area constantly so as to put an end to criminality there.

Agbon lamented that the porous security situation in the area had made the community vulnerable to constant attacks, stressing that Fulani herdsmen had already taken over the community.

According to him, "The case is now different, because they are fully in charge and have settled while the natives don't even have a place to farm. That part of my constituency is like a lost land now. Farm crops are being destroyed by the herdsmen almost on a daily basis with a lot of other criminal activities being committed with impunity," he noted.

The state Police Commissioner, Mr Hycient Dagala, who paraded the criminal, expressed shock at the development and promised that the suspect would be charged to court as soon as investigation on the matter was concluded.

Insisting that the suspect must be charged to court as soon as investigation is concluded, the CP said, "I am not happy seeing women and children as victims in such issues. I am putting structures together to tackle the problem".

He suggested that the best way to solve the problem was to go back to history and see how the issue of grazing route could be revisited, pointing out that since all land belonged to government, government could use its authority to enforce strict rules on grazing areas and possibly revitalise them.

The suspected herdsman, who owned up to the crime, also confirmed that he took tramol 200, a substance said to be an energizer, adding that he was under the influence of the substance at the time of the incident.

---

Read **440** times

**HOW I MADE N13Million IN 2013. Earning Over N1,000,000/Month In 2014. [CLICK HERE To Learn Legitimate Internet Biz.](#)**