

Again, gunmen kill 3 children, 2 women in Plateau

Isaac Shobayo | Jos

NO fewer than five persons were killed in Kwal district of Bassa Local Government Area of Plateau State on Tuesday following an invasion of the area by gunmen suspected to be herdsmen.

A source close to the community told the *Nigerian Tribune* that the victims were killed in two separate attacks

in Kperie and Gbra Zongo communities, adding that the attacks might have been carried out by the same set of gunmen who invaded the communities earlier this year.

The source revealed that the gunmen killed three children from the same family in Gbra Zongo village before moving to the neighbouring Kperie community where they also killed two women during the attack which occurred on Tuesday night.

A relation of one of the victims, who identified himself as Danjuma Anthony, confirmed the killings in Gbra Zongo.

Anthony said that the gunmen, after shooting the victims, also used machete on them to be sure they were dead.

The source gave the names of the deceased children as Rachael (six), Jacob (three) and Charity (one and half years).

Anthony said: "The family is in pains now because those killed in Gbra Zongo community were the children of my younger brother. The children were just sleeping in their room around 9:45 p.m. when the gunmen, who were about three, entered and killed them.

"The father of the children was not at home as he had gone on security patrol of the community, while his wife, who was at home, was

asleep in another room. This kind of unprovoked attack and killing of innocent children only shows the level of insecurity our people are facing in the community. It's really unfortunate."

A youth leader, Mr Rogo Friday, who also confirmed the killings of the two women in Kperie community said: "The women were not from the community; they came to sympathise with a family in the community and that is

how they met their untimely death. Others, including a youth who sustained injuries inflicted on them by the gunmen, have been taken to the hospital."

Efforts to confirm the incident from the state police command through the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), ASP Ubah Gabriel, proved abortive as the police spokesman could not be reached on his mobile phone line.