

Gunmen kill 15 in two Plateau communities

Isaac Shobayo | Jos

GUNMEN suspected to be herdsmen on Sunday night invaded two communities in Plateau State and killed 15 people while many others sustained gunshot injuries.

A source close to Kohorok village of Kwi community in Riyom Local Government Area of the state said the community was invaded at about 11:00 pm by gunmen who operated for over two hours.

According to the source who escaped from the attack, the gunmen, throughout the operation, were speaking in Fulfulde language, adding that they

killed eight residents, while many others were injured.

The source said the community had earlier received a report that it would be attacked, just as he added that nothing was done by security agents to prevent the attack.

"We are surprised by this attack because the community had earlier reported that there was a threat on the community. Even in the course of the attack, security men did not respond appropriately," he said.

Those killed were Sam Bulus (21), father of three, Ezekiel Dung (30); Pam Samuel (20), Pam Esther (five), Leah Pam (seven), Noroh Gyang (19), Garose Dung (81) and

a pregnant lady, Jessica Monday (18).

He added that five of the victims were members of the same family, adding that their bodies have been taken to the hospital for autopsy after which they would be buried.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), ASP Gabriel Ubah Ogabah, however said: "Let me confirm, I will get back to you."

He was, however, yet to get back as of the time of filing this report.

Meanwhile, the coordinator of the Emancipation Centre for Crisis Victims in Nigeria (ECCVN), Mr Dalyop Solomon Mwantiri, con-

firmed the attack.

In another development, gunmen also attacked Dong village of Jos North Local Government Area at about 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, where they killed seven persons.

According to report, the assailants invaded the village and shot sporadically, which resulted in the death of seven persons.

The state police spokesperson, who confirmed the incident, said, "On Sunday, May 23, at about 8:00 p.m., the command received a distress call that yet-to-be identified gunmen came out suddenly from a nearby bush, invaded Dong Village and killed seven persons."