

## **Taraba**

On the Thursday killings in Gassol and Bali local government areas of Taraba State, a community leader, Mr Orkurga Terkimbi, told Saturday Tribune on Friday that 12 bodies were recovered from bushes in Ijever, near Sabon-Gida, in Gassol Local Government Area.

Two other persons were also reportedly killed and 11 others injured on Thursday night by suspected Fulani herdsman in Pangari community in Bali Local Government Area. The state Police Public Relations Officer, DSP David Misal, confirmed the attacks.

Saturday Tribune gathered that three persons who sustained injuries in the attack in Gassol were receiving treatment in a private hospital in Sabon-Gida, while the 11 others who were injured Pangari attack were receiving treatment at the General Hospital, Bali.

It was learnt that the situation has forced hundreds of people, mostly Tiv farmers, to flee, on Friday, to Jalingo, the state capital. The refugees, who are now camping at NKST Church, Mayo-Dassa, NKST Church, Kufai and other locations, said the attackers sacked Pangari and Sansani communities in Bali Local Government Area and Numbe, Ijever and Sindelde in Gassol Local Government Area.

Chairman of Tiv Cultural and Social Association in Bali Local Government Area, Mr Matthew Baki, told newsmen that two people were killed on Thursday night with 11 others wounded.

“The suspected Fulani militia attacked Pangari at about 2.00 a.m., killed two people and wounded 11 others.

“This morning, the police in Bali came and evacuated the corpses and the injured to General Hospital, Bali.

“Many people are fleeing the area now. The number of people leaving the area has overwhelmed motorists. Some women and children are fleeing on foot and heading towards Jalingo and Mutum Biyu axis,” he said.

A cleric, Reverend father George Dogo, told newsmen that his church in Mutum Biyu was packed with people fleeing attacks on their communities. The Catholic priest lamented the attacks and appealed to the relevant authorities to arrest the situation.

“The escalation of the attacks is worrisome. From the reports I am getting, the people are being attacked without any form of provocation.

“I don’t really know what is going on, but I want to appeal to the relevant authorities to halt the escalation of the attacks and killings,” Reverend Dogo said.