

Two vigilantes killed, over 50 farms destroyed by suspected militia in Plateau

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AS gunmen suspected to be Fulani militia continue to terrorise the northern part of Plateau State, two persons have again been killed with over 50 farms destroyed by the criminals.

Nigerian Tribune learnt that the victims, identified as Titus John and Illiya Dalyop, were shot at close range on Tuesday at about 8:00 p.m. in Kum village in Riyom Local Government Area while on surveillance in the community following report of a planned attack on the village.

A vigilante who escaped the attack said they ran into the gunmen while they were patrolling the community, adding that before they could ask for their identities, the gunmen had opened fire on them.

According to a source close to the community, women and children in large numbers trooped out en mass on Wednesday to protest the killings, as well as rampant raiding, maiming and killing of innocent persons in the council area by the militia.

Also, farmers in Plateau North, precisely in Bassa, Barakin Ladi and Riyom local government areas are counting their losses following constant destruction of their farms by the gunmen.

A farmer, Bitrus Gyang, whose 10 hectares of maize farm was destroyed last week during a midnight raid by the criminals, said such evil practice has now become a daily occurrence, not only in his community, but in the entire farming communities in the senatorial district.

"In Riyom Local Government Area alone, no fewer than 30 large farms were totally destroyed, likewise in other places in the senatorial district. We have reported severally to the government and security agencies but nothing has been done. My fear is that if this continues, there might be poor harvest this year.

"These attackers have also told us that their aim is to frustrate farming in all Berom land this season. This is our predicament, coupled with indiscriminate killings," he said.