

Bandits attack traders in Kogi, Kill 4

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BAGANA community in Omala Local Government Area of Kogi State was attacked on Thursday night by bandits who killed four persons and inflicted injuries on two others.

The attack occurred at about 9.00 p.m. at the Ofeapo area when the victims, who were mainly traders, were travelling in a tricycle, popular known as Keke Napep.

The gunmen, said to be

about 10 in number, reportedly opened fire on the traders, killing four of them on the spot while the two survivors were rushed to a nearby medical facility.

According to a source, the bandits targeted the victims who were returning home after the day's business.

The source, who identified those killed as two males and two females, described the killing had renewed tension in the community which he said had been under siege for more than a decade.

He called on the state governor, Yahaya Bello, to take over the issue of security in the community as efforts by the local authorities had failed to stop the attacks.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, William Ayah, confirmed the Thursday attack, saying armed robbers attacked the traders that were returning from Bagana market.

According to Ayah, the rider of the commercial tricycle in which the traders were travelling was killed on the spot

while two other passengers sustained injuries and were receiving treatment.

He noted that the Commissioner of Police had deployed operatives to restore normalcy in the area while investigation was on with a view to arresting the hoodlums and bringing them to book.

Meanwhile, the traditional ruler of Omala Local Government Area, Boniface Musa, the Ojogba of Ife, condemned the dastardly act and prayed God to give the

families of the victims the fortitude to bear the losses.

He decried the incessant attacks on the Bagana people by gunmen and expressed regret that that the latest killing took place at a time when all hands were on deck to ensure the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the community to their homes.

He appealed to Governor Bello to intervene in the lingering security crisis in Bagana which he said had led to the death of many people

and rendered others homeless.

While urging him to implement the recommendations of a committee led by Colonel Suleiman Babanawa (rtd) led, the traditional ruler called for the deployment of security agents in the community to forestall further bloodshed there.

The Attah of Igala, Matthew Alhaji Opaluwa, had hoodlums to lay down their arms and embrace peace or be ready to face the wrath of the law.

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