

# Gunmen kill nine, injure 20 in Plateau

**CAN expresses worries over killings in the country**

Isaac Shobayo with agency report

**N**INE persons were killed and 20 others injured when suspected militia men attacked Ser community in Bokkos Local Government Area of Plateau State.

A source close to the community in Wumat Tarangol District of the council area said the gunmen, in their large numbers, stormed the community in the early hours of Thursday.

The source, who escaped the attack, said the gunmen operated for more than three hours, while about 30 houses were destroyed.

He said harvested crops, cars, motorcycles, water pumping machines and other valuables worth several millions of naira were also destroyed.

The house of the member representing Bokkos constituency in the state House

of Assembly, Honourable Sylvester Wallangko, was among those destroyed.

On Thursday, several sympathisers, including the chairman of the council area, Honourable Joseph Guluwa; chairman of Barkin Ladi Local Government Area, Honourable Jok Alamba; a member of the state House of Assembly, Honourable Usaini Amurudu; Commissioner for Higher Education in the state, Professor Bernard Matur; a former member of the state House of Assembly, Honourable Sunday Mallo Muchen, and others, visited the community to sympathise with residents over the attack.

While speaking, Honourable Wallangko called for a community-based security approach to help curb insecurity in the area.

Efforts to get the reaction of the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Alfred Alabo, failed as

he could not be reached on phone.

Bokkos council area has been under attack in recent months with about 30 people killed, many injured and several houses razed.

Meanwhile, the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) on Thursday in Enugu expressed worries about renewed killings in the country, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) has reported.

The religious body said it would continue to engage governments at all levels to ensure that the killings were curtailed.

CAN national president, Reverend Daniel Okoh, expressed the worries at the 31st General Assembly and Standing Committee of the Christian Council of Nigeria (CCN).

Reacting to recent attacks at Eha-Amufu, Enugu State, by assailants, the CAN president charged that federal and state governments were failing in their respon-

sibility of securing lives and property of Nigerians.

He said: "I want to tell you that CAN has not relented in its call to the Federal Government and the security agencies to be alive to their responsibilities to defend citizens and the territorial integrity of the country.

"We have been talking to the security agencies; we have been raising our prophetic voice and we hope that those in charge will listen.

"We will continue, not only just to talk to them openly, but will engage them in conversation, and we pray that within a short time, God will answer our prayers.

"It is a collective responsibility, not just the responsibility of the government alone to know, see and fish out certain movements that are suspicious and report same to the authorities," he said.