

Gunmen attack five Plateau communities, kill 12

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TWELVE people have been killed and seven others injured after gunmen attacked five communities simultaneously in Barkin-Ladin and Riyom local government areas of Plateau State.

Nigerian Tribune gathered that the communities, Kwi, Bachit, Foron, Heipang and Wereng, were attacked at about 8:30p.m. on Sunday for close to two hours.

It was further gathered that the gunmen stormed the communities on motorcycles

at the same time and went on a killing spree.

They also destroyed several properties before escaping from the communities.

A community leader who preferred to remain anonymous disclosed that the gunmen, who had laid siege on the area, divided themselves into different groups to attack the communities.

Giving a breakdown of the attack, the community leader said four persons were killed in Heipang, one in Kwi, and two in Foron, all in Barkin-Ladin Local Government,

while another three were killed in Wereng and two in Bachit, adding that seven persons also sustained injuries.

National president of Berom Youth Moulders Association, Dalyop Solomon, said prior to the attack, there was intelligence of a plan to attack six council areas in the state.

Solomon pointed out that recent cases of isolated killings and invasions of communities in the state were part of the ploy to frustrate farming activities with the coming of the rainy season and, by ex-

tension, territorial expansion.

He, therefore, called on security agencies to fish out the perpetrators.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Alfred Alabo, confirmed the attack.

He said operatives of the command and other security agencies had already been deployed in the affected communities.

Alabo said: "We are on top of the situation and we are not resting on our oars; the perpetrators will be brought to book."