

# 20 feared killed in Plateau communities

## Death toll in Mwachhavul chieftdom in recent attacks close to 300, MDA president claims

Isaac Shobayo | Jos

ABOUT 20 people were between Tuesday and Wednesday killed by rampaging terrorists in Plateau State

Nigerian Tribune gathered that 14 people, mostly women, were burnt to death in Chisu community, while another six were killed at different communities in Mangu and Riyom local government areas of the state.

It was learnt that the gunmen sneaked into Bwai community at about 12:34am and set a Church of Christ in Nations (COCIN) and other properties within the premises, including motorcycles and vehicles, on fire.

A source close to the community but who did not want his name mentioned disclosed that the cleric and members of his family residing within the church premises escaped unhurt.

According to the source, the hoodlums later moved to the neighbouring Chisu community, along the Mangu-Bokkos road, where

they unleashed terror on residents and burnt 14 people to death.

The source said the people of Chisu, who had gotten wind of the attack on Bwai, ran into the bush, while others, mostly women, took cover in the house of the community leader.

"Those who took cover in the house of the community leader were, however, unlucky as the terrorists blocked the entrance and exit to the house and set the building on fire.

"They [hoodlums] supervised the burning to ensure that everyone inside was burnt to death.

"When we got to the burnt community leader's house this morning [Wednesday], about 14 charred bodies were recovered.

"The militias, during the attack which lasted more than two hours, also burnt several houses and other properties."

The source claimed that there was an intelligence report before the attack which

was passed on to appropriate security agencies.

He said: "There was an intelligence report yesterday [Tuesday] that the militias were gathering at Murish, and the report was passed on to the appropriate security agencies.

"The people of Chisu had laid ambush for them [hoodlums] on the way they suspected they would follow, but suddenly, they changed their route, and when they came, they started burning everything in sight and shooting."

Also, the terrorists attacked Sambak village in Rahoss, Riyom Local Government Area, where six persons were killed at about 11:00a.m on Tuesday.

A member of the state House of Assembly representing Mangu constituency, Honourable Bala Fwenji, who confirmed the attacks on the two communities and the 14 people burnt to death, claimed the people of the state had been abandoned by the Federal Government.

Efforts to confirm the attacks from the spokesperson of the state police command, Alfred Alabo, failed.

Meanwhile, the national president of Mwachhavul Development Association, Sir Joseph Gwankat, has lamented the spate of killings in Mwachhavul chieftdom in Mangu Local Government Area, saying the death toll in recent time is close to 300, with many people displaced.

Speaking with the *Nigerian Tribune*, Sir Gwankat, who condemned the latest killings which claimed over 20 lives, said the chieftdom in the past one month had been experiencing constant raiding and killing of natives by militias.

Gwankat said: "In the early hours of Wednesday, the attackers besieged Bwai community, where they attempted to burn a church and set houses on fire.

"They moved to Chisu community where about 15 people were burnt to death where they were hiding, alongside another five who were shot."