

# METRO

...CRIME, SECURITY, COURT

## Gunmen invade Benue community, kill 11 persons

**Govt imposes curfew in affected area, as youths protest**

Johnson Babajide | Makurdi

**G**UNMEN have killed at least 11 persons in Ayat community in Ukum Local Government area of Benue State.

The gunmen who brandished dangerous weapons including assorted guns invaded the community on Tuesday.

The development has sparked off a protest in the local government area as the youths are calling on the government to put an end to the killings in the area.

The protesters, the Nigerian Tribune gathered, were said to have conveyed the dead bodies of their colleagues to the council secretariat in Zaki Biam, headquarters of the local government.

A local source said: "There is hardly a day we don't experience killings and kidnapping in this council. Unfortunately, the state government has not shown any seriousness to tackle these daily killings."

"Tuesday night, these bandits invaded Ayati village and killed several people. As the youths recovered 11 corpses, it (development) triggered

anger and subsequently (youths) stormed the road and protested the killing.

"Some of the youths also went to the council secretariat with the recovered corpses to vent their anger, and smashed windows and destroyed things there."

The chairman of Ukum LGA, Victor Iorzaa, said he was not in a position to speak on the incident when our correspondent called him.

Meanwhile the Police Public Relations Officer, Catherine Anene, and the Special Advisor to the governor on Internal Security Joseph Har,

confirmed the protest to our correspondent.

Har said that bandits were responsible for the killing.

"Yes, they are protesting because of the killings in the area. We don't have the details yet but bandits are responsible."

"They (youths) are protesting and threatening to burn down the LG secretariat but they are aware that the state government has dislodged these bandits."

"What the bandits just did is what we call in security parlance 'the last kick of a dying horse'."

Just few days ago, there was massive destruction of their camps in Katsina-Ala. So this is their last kick. They have been dislodged and they are trying everything they can to vent their anger on the harmless people.

"I have spoken to the leader of the youths and I told them to be patient. Government is going to sustain

the momentum."

Meanwhile, Governor (Rev Fr) Hyacinth Alia has declared total curfew in Ukum Local Government Area of the state.

The curfew which commenced at 3pm on Wednesday till 3 pm Thursday while it will reverse to 6pm to 6am every day from Thursday (today) until further notice.

## Anglican Bishop hacked to death by son in Delta

Ebenezer Adurokiya | Warri

**AN** Anglican Bishop, Rev. Isaac Umurie, has been

killling his father.

The suspect, said to be mentally deranged, is already in police custody