

Gunmen kill six travellers in Taraba

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GUNMEN have killed six persons, including the driver of a commercial car travelling from Takum Local Government Area to Wukari Local Government Area of Taraba State.

The incident occurred at Sai community, a boundary area of Benue State overstretching into Takum council area of Taraba State.

Chairman of Takum Local Government Area, John Ali, confirmed the incident on Monday.

The Takum-Wukari expressway is the same spot where the traditional ruler of Chanchanji and his son were ambushed and killed by gunmen recently while

returning from a funeral service in Takum town.

According to Ali, the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) has been warned against plying the route early in the morning due to the volatile nature of the road.

"The first vehicle that had about five passengers left Takum in the early hours of Monday, and at about 6:00a.m, the vehicle approached Sai community.

"The hoodlums emerged from the bush and opened fire on the moving vehicle and killed the six passengers, including the driver. I have instructed security agencies to take the corpses to the morgue and go after the hoodlums.

"Already, there is a team of security agencies put

in place by the governor shortly after the killing of the third-class chief of Chanchanji and his son. The patrol team was preparing to move into their various units of the patrol as they normally come out around 7:00a.m, but the incident occurred between 6:00a.m and 6:30a.m.

"We earlier had a security meeting with the NURTW and other unions where we warned against plying the road as early as possible in the morning because security agencies on patrol do not resume duty that early. I do not know why they failed to intimate their members, or why this driver left early in the morning and became a victim."

The council boss said the hoodlums will not go un-

punished, adding that the government is doing everything possible to apprehend them.

Meanwhile, the Taraba Independent Peace Committee has condemned the continued attacks and killings on the Takum/Wukari road by suspected bandits.

In a press release, chairman of the committee, Professor Talla Ngarka, expressed displeasure over the attacks and killings that have plagued the Takum/Wukari and Takum/Katsina-Ala roads, resulting in the loss of innocent lives and kidnapping of many in recent times.

"The Taraba Independent Peace Committee is deeply saddened and outraged by the relentless attacks and killings that have plagued

the Takum/Wukari and Takum/Katsina-Ala roads, resulting in the tragic loss of innocent lives and kidnapping of many in recent times.

"Just today [Monday], gunmen once again emerged from the bush to unleash terror on travellers.

"We learnt that the victims of this latest heinous act include the following; Tanko Danjuma (45), Kabiru Gambo Limam (45), Muktar Usman (45), Gambo Andemi (38), Abba Bulus and Samuel Pius (50).

"This attack comes only a few weeks after the murder of the Gara of Chanchanji, a respected traditional ruler on the same road. These consistent and coordinated acts of violence have left the communities in the area in

the state of fear and despair.

"We strongly condemn these senseless killings and call on the governments of Taraba and Benue states to urgently collaborate and take decisive action to address the insecurity that has become rampant in these areas.

"The safety of our citizens should be the highest priority, and it is imperative that both state governments work together to restore peace and order.

"We demand increased security presence and intelligence gathering along these roads to prevent further attacks. It is also crucial that the perpetrators of these crimes are apprehended and brought to justice to serve as a deterrent to others."

② Two killed in Lagos-Ibadan