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# Fulani herdsmen kill father, son in Jos

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**L**ife in the home of 90-year-old Pa Godfrey Winful was peaceful. But on the evening of October 8, 2015, that atmosphere of peace was shattered in a violent attack by rampaging Fulani herdsmen who forced their way inside his home.

By the end of that day's raid on his home, his son-in-law, 42-year-old Sunday Macintosh, and his five-year-old grandson, Ebi, lay dead.

Stories such as this have become all too common in a city where herdsmen have become terror for residents.

The story of how the Macintosh father and son met their death right in their living room sounds like a scene from a horror movie.

Thirty-six-year-old Friday James who was living with Pa Winful had just got back from a journey that day. Eager to see his wife after three months away, James looked forward to having a happy reunion with her and his children, but he said that day turned out to be a day he would regret for the rest of his life.

James said, "I came back from a journey after being away for more than three months. I dropped at Anguldi at about 7pm and boarded a taxi to my house at Funah Guest House. As I got to the gate, I called out to my wife to come and open the gate for me. When she came out, she tried to open the gate, but discovered that she had the wrong key. So she called out to one of our neighbours to help bring his own key. Our neighbour came out and gave us his own key and went back into his own apartment. As my wife was helping me to pick my belongings, we heard a clicking sound. She asked me what it was, but since I did not know, I did not think much of it. But as she went outside the gate to pick my last bag, she saw a Fulani herdsmen with a gun pointing at her. When she saw him,



•Survivors: Esther and her daughter, Bella. Photos: Jude Owuamanam

she screamed, "We are finished." She ran back inside the compound while the Fulani man was following her with his gun still pointed at her. Then she ran towards me with the man still following her. At that point, our neighbour, who heard the shout from my wife came out and asked what was happening. Immediately he opened the door my wife ran inside."

James said that the Fulani man asked him to kneel before he (the Fulani man) beckoned on his accomplices to come. He said, "Two others joined him; the two faced me while the first man stood close to my neighbour. They asked me where my cows were. I told them I did not know about any cow was as I just coming back from a journey. When one of them cocked his gun and was about to shoot me, I became afraid and told them I could lead them to where the cows were. The two of them followed me while the third man was inside the compound. A moment later, one of them

hit me with a bar and I fell down pretending to be unconscious."

James said the moment he fell down, they left him and headed to the compound. According to him, as soon as the men were out of sight, he sprang up and fled. He told our correspondent that he jumped over a wall and ran to a nearby security checkpoint, where he alerted the security agents there.

Meanwhile, inside the compound, the assailants broke in and pushed Macintosh inside. Before any help could come to them, the marauders killed him and his five year-old-son as he reportedly struggled with them. His wife was seriously injured in the leg in the process.

It was learnt that in the course of the scuffle, the trigger went off and mistakenly killed one of the herdsmen. The security men were said to have taken the dead man away while the Macintosh and his son were rushed to the

hospital but they died on the way.

Pa Winful's son, Obi expressed sadness at the inability of the security men, who were stationed just some few metres away, to respond quickly to the distress calls.

He said, "Since the incident, our old father has been in distraught, especially at the loss of his son in-law and grandson. The security failed to respond quickly even when somebody escaped from the compound and alerted them."

Media and Communications Officer, Operation Safe Haven, Capt. Ikedichi Iweha, however, said though he needed to find out what actually happened, it is not the habit of men of the task force to ignore such distress calls.

"We have always encouraged people to come up with information that can help us with our work. So we are not in the habit of not responding to cries for help," he said.

