

Herdsman attack Benue, Kogi villages, kill 11



FILE PHOTO

Attah Ede and Gbenga Odogun

No fewer than 10 people were feared killed on Monday when gunmen suspected to be Fulani herdsman attacked Adayohor village along Uver-Gov Sevav road in Gaambe-Tiev, Logo Local Government Area of Benue State.

This was as a 45-year-old farmer was killed by gunmen also suspected to be herdsman in the Karagi community, Lokoja Local Government Area of Kogi State on Sunday.

The Benue attacks, which our correspondent learnt, took place around mid day on Monday, also led to many people including women and children fleeing the troubled zone.

Eye witnesses said the gunmen laid siege to the road leading to the main village and started shooting sporadically.

The eye witnesses further said hundreds of people in the attacked village were sighted trekking to the neighbouring communities of Anyiim town and Ugba town to take refuge.

A former special assistant to erstwhile Governor Gabriel Suswam on media, Chief Joseph Anawa, an

indigene of the affected community, said the herdsmen destroyed a lot of property while several corpses of the victims of the attacks littered the ground.

According to him, some of the victims who were stabbed in the stomach and neck were killed while on their way to their farms located around Adayohor.

He said the injured persons had been hospitalised at the NKST Hospital in Anyiin.

Reacting to the incident, a member of the House of Assembly representing Logo State constituency, Kester Kyenge, said the figures were yet to be confirmed.

When contacted the Benue State Police Command Public Relations' Officer, Moses Yamu, confirmed the attacks.

He said the suspected Fulani herdsmen attacked Tse- Adayohol in Mbagbe ward in Gaambe-Tiev of Logo L. G killed one person while one was missing and two were injured.

Meanwhile, the Kogi incident which happened on Sunday was described as one among other series on local farmers by herdsmen in recent times in the state.

One of our correspondents gathered that the victim, Mr Adama Muhammed, was in his cassava farm when he was gunned down.

Speaking on the incident, the wife of the deceased, Mrs Amina Muhammed, who said she was nursing a two-month-old baby said her husband left home for his farm on Sunday and did not return home as expected which made her to raise the alarm.

She said it was the search party that was launched after that found his beheaded body on the way to his farm.

A family member of the deceased, a final year student of Nassarawa College of Education, Lafia, said the deceased had always complained about the unruly behaviour of the Fulani herdsmen in their community.

"My cousin who just died used to complain about the Fulanis. They used to bring their cattle to graze on his farm. I believe it's through them that this thing happened".

A member of the community who went to the bush with the search party to evacuate the dead body, said,

“I followed the family members who came here to take him to the village. When we got here, there were machete wounds all over his body. After they killed him, they cut off his head and stabbed him in his stomach.”

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