

NEWS

# Suspected herdsmen kill hunter in Plateau

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## *Friday Olokor, Jos*

The tension in Plateau State the over alleged theft of cows heightened on Saturday with the killing of a hunter identified as Daniel Wallam in Maijankhai village, Barkin Ladi Local Government Area.

The deceased was said to have been gunned down by suspected Fulani herdsmen who were allegedly destroying some farmlands with their cattle.

Several calls to the spokesperson for the Plateau State Police Command, Matthias Tyopev, for response were not replied.

But when contacted, the spokesperson for the OPSH, Maj. Umar Adams, said he would make enquiries and “get back.”

Although the details of the incident were sketchy, the chairman, Public Accounts and Petitions in Plateau State House of Assembly representing Barkin Ladi constituency, Peter Gyendeng, confirmed the killing in an interview with *The PUNCH* on Sunday evening.

He said, “The incident happened yesterday (Saturday); it was around 11pm that we got a phone call about the killing. The man is a hunter and was hunting for animals in the bush. On his way returning home, he met the herdsmen destroying some farmlands.

“They have done it before and he saw them doing it the second time. But the hunter did not know that there were other herdsmen close by watching him. The community confirmed that he called them to alert them about the destruction of their farmland by the Fulani herdsmen and urged them to come to the farm.

“So as he was making that call, he heard a gunshot and started running. The herdsmen followed him and gunned him down. The OPSH and Divisional Police Officer of Barkin Ladi were there for a visit. I was there too this (Sunday) morning.”

The OPSH had in a statement issued in Jos by its Chief of Staff, Brig. Gen. A.M. Bello, on behalf of its Commander, Maj. Gen. Anthony Atolagbe, said some suspects had been arrested and investigations were ongoing.

According to him, contrary to reports, there had been no tension in Plateau State, following alleged threats by MACBAN in the state over an alleged attack on their kinsmen and the rustling of 350 cows belonging to their people.

He added, “Please note that only 200 cattle were missing, out of which 100 were recovered while 20 were found dead. Efforts are ongoing to find the remaining ones with the assistance of the locals in the area. However, some suspects were arrested and investigations are ongoing.”

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