

Eight killed in separate Taraba attacks

Justin Tyopuusu, Jalingo

ABOUT eight persons were feared killed in two separate attacks in the Karim-Lamido and Gassol Local Governments Areas of Taraba State between Monday and Wednesday.

The Caretaker Chairman of the Karim Lamido Local Government Council, Idi Mali, confirmed the killing of five persons in Bailango 1 and two communities of the local government.

This is even as three persons were killed in a renewed Jukun/Tiv crisis in the Gassol Local Government Area of the state on Wednesday.

Gunmen had on Monday killed two village heads, a vigilante group chairman and two others in an attack in the Karim Lamido LGA of Taraba State.

Mali, who confirmed the incident on the telephone in Jalingo on Wednesday, said the gunmen numbering about 30 invaded the two communities and killed the village heads on Monday.

He identified the two village heads as Garba Dangari, the village head of Bailango 1 and Sarki Ali, village head of Bailango 2.

The council chief said they were both killed in their homes.

According to him the

gunmen killed the leader of the vigilante group in the area, Sarkin Baka, and abducted his three children. He added that they killed two others during the attack.

Mali, who said the attackers were suspected kidnappers on a retaliation mission, said hunters in the area had killed a suspected kidnapper in the village and chased others away in an encounter recently.

Local residents told our correspondent that the gunmen also attacked Kirya village, a neighbouring community, forcing residents to flee.

Meanwhile, three persons were said to have been killed in a renewed Tiv/Jukun crisis in Dan-Anacha village of the Gassol Local Government Area of the state.

Residents said heavy gun battle ensued between the Jukun and the Tiv in the village on Monday over the renaming of the village from Dan-Anacha to Kwararafa by Governor Darius Ishaku.

The clash, it was learnt, led to the killing of three persons and burning of houses.

Vehicular movement was disrupted on Wednesday in the area following fierce battle between the Jukun and the Tiv.

This forced motorists plying the Wukari-Jalingo highway which passed through the village

to seek alternative routes.

A resident of the village, John Iorkyaa, said people were fleeing the town to neighbouring Sabongida and Tella towns in the Gassol Local Government Area.

Iorkyaa said three persons were killed on Wednesday and houses, including the residence of the Ter-Tiv Gassol, Zaki Simon Erentsa, were burnt.

Buhari condemns C'River killings

John Ameh, Abuja

PRESIDENT Muhammadu Buhari has condemned the violence in the Boki Local Government Area of Cross River State, which has claimed lives.

The people of Boje community and their neighbours in Nsadop community had been fighting in the last 24 hours.

The Presidency said in a statement on Wednesday that the cause of the conflict remained unknown and had claimed "yet-to-be ascertained number of lives and arson attacks."

The statement released by Buhari's spokesperson, Mr Garba Shehu, partly read, "So far, there have been claims and counter-claims as who restarted the killings and arson between the neighbouring communities

The Police Public Relations Officer, Taraba State Police Command, DSP. David Misal, said he had not been briefed about the incident because he had been out of town.

Also, the Caretaker Chairman of the Gassol Local Government, Alhaji Yahuza Ya'au, did not pick his calls or reply to a text message sent to his phone.

of Nsadop community and the Boje community.

"While the origin of the mayhem is still unclear, President Buhari notes that no dispute or grievance is worth the violent snatching away of another person's life. Nigerians must learn to live peacefully with each other and seek less brutish means of resolving conflicts. Our country does not need another war.

"President Buhari understands that our security agencies are already intervening to bring an end to the crisis.

"He also makes an urgent call on the Cross River State Government and the Boki Local Government authorities to immediately look into the crisis and take action to ensure that this unfortunate situation is resolved both in the short and long terms."