

NEWS

Pregnant woman, eight others killed in fresh Plateau attack

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File photo

James Abraham, Jos

A fresh attack by gunmen on the Bassa Local Government Area of Plateau State has left nine persons including a pregnant woman dead.

It was learnt that several houses were also set ablaze by the gunmen during the attack which occurred in Hurra community, Irigwe Chiefdom of the council area on Tuesday night.

The police and the President of Irigwe Development Association, Mr Sunday Abdul, confirmed the attack to our correspondent in Jos on Wednesday.

Abdul, who condemned the fresh onslaught on his people, lamented that it was unfortunate that such wickedness could be allowed to happen in the community despite the COVID-19 lockdown imposed by the state government.

Abdul said, “We woke up this morning to the cries and wailings of our people. When I enquired, they told me nine persons including a pregnant woman have again been killed by gunmen who raided Hurra village in Kwall district of the Bassa Local Government Area. Several houses have also been burnt down before the attackers left the village.

“The situation is really hard to understand. Our people are on lockdown as directed by the state government and some other people who feel they can do anything and get away with it came and attacked them, killing nine of our people and setting their houses on fire. How do you explain this?
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The state Commissioner for Information and Communications, Mr Dan Manjang, said government was aware of the killings in the council area.

Describing the development as sad, Manjang blamed the killings on crisis merchants whom he said were fuelling insecurity in the council area for personal benefits.

The commissioner said, “We are aware of the fresh killings in Bassa. No government will be happy to see its citizens being killed.

“It is unfortunate that while government is doing everything possible to ensure the sustenance of peace in the state, some people who are benefiting from the crisis are bent on scuttling government’s efforts but government will not allow them to succeed in their evil agenda.

“The truth is that some people who are benefiting from the killings would not want the situation to stop. Unless the warring parties come and tell themselves the truth, the situation will continue. Unless those killing their fellow human beings realise that they don’t have the right to take another person’s life, the situation will continue.

“As a government, we have sent security operatives to the community where the attack took place and we are appealing to them to sheathe their sword and give peace a chance in the council area.”

Also, the Plateau State Police Command on Wednesday confirmed that nine persons were killed while 22 houses were burnt during Tuesday's attack.

Spokesman for the command, ASP Ubah Ogaba, in a statement on Wednesday, said unknown gunmen attacked Hura village in Kwall district.

He added, "As a result, nine persons were killed and 22 houses, two motorcycles and two generators, were burnt. The Commissioner of Police immediately visited the community along with some very senior officers of the command.

"More men have been deployed in the area to ensure that the community is peaceful and calm. The command kindly solicit useful information from members of the public to assist the police in arresting the perpetrators of this act."