Kajuru killings death toll now 27, says SOKAPU

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The death toll in the suspected Fulani herdsmen attacks on three communities in the Kajuru Local Government Area of Kaduna State has risen to 27.

The National President of the Southern Kaduna Peoples Union, Mr Jonathan Asake, who stated this at a press conference on Thursday, noted that within 48 hours of the attacks 27 lives were lost.

Asake, a former member of the House of Representatives, claimed that suspected herdsmen sacked Gaily community in Chikun LGA, chasing away their men and "turned their wives and daughters into sex slaves after occupying the community."

The SOKAPU leader said, "On Monday May 11, 2020, Gonar Rogo, another defenceless community in Kajuru Local Government Area, came under assault from Fulani herdsmen militia.

"The following day, the attackers extended their murderous expedition to Bakin Kogi where residents had fled the town.

"They burnt down the town and launched another assault on another village, Idanu. In the early hours of Wednesday, the murderous gang of terrorists moved to Makyali, where several persons were killed. In Agwala village, an old lady was mercilessly hacked to death."

He added, "In total, these attacks have so far claimed 27 lives within 48 hours, while the injured have been taken to various medical facilities for attention.

Efele, Ungwan Modi and Ungwan Rana villages were also attacked and hundreds of residents displaced."

But the Kaduna State Police Command maintained that 15 and not 17 people were killed while 5 sustained injuries in the attack.

The state command Public Relations Officer, ASP Mohammed Jalige, in a statement, had said, "The attackers started shooting sporadically, attacking the villagers and in the process shot and killed 15 persons, and injured five others."

Meanwhile, the Kaduna chapter of the Christian Association of Nigeria has condemned the persistent killings in Kajuru.

The chairman of CAN, Rev. John Hahab, in a statement described the persistent killing as disturbing and unacceptable.