

Similarly, gunmen reportedly killed 20 persons in Chibuak and Kigudu II, Kauru Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

In the attacks which took place from Thursday to Friday midnight, scores of villagers in the two communities were said to be missing.

It was also learnt that as the villagers of Kigudu II were preparing for the mass burial of their dead ones, the gunmen reportedly launched another attack on the community. But they were repelled by security operatives.

Although the police in the state had yet to confirm the attacks, a cleric at Damakasuwa Outstation, Rev Fr Aaron Tanko, who oversees the two communities, said nine people were killed in Chibuak while 11 were killed in Kigudu II.

He said, “The attacks took place on Thursday and Friday at midnight. Chibuak was attacked on Thursday and nine people were killed. They attacked Kigudu II on Friday night and killed 11 people.

“Some people are still missing so I cannot conclusively say this (20) is the casualty figure. Some of those killed were my parishioners; others were Protestants.

“We were preparing for the mass burial of our parishioners this morning (Saturday) in Kigudu II but we could not do it when (suspected) herdsmen attacked us again. But they were repelled by the security personnel. Nobody was killed or injured.

“We couldn’t even conduct proper mass burial; we just offered simple prayers and they were buried.

“There are villages where people cannot even go to their farms for fear of being killed by herdsmen. We appeal to the government to address these incessant attacks on our communities and killings by herdsmen.”

The Kaduna State Police Command’s Public Relations Officer, Mohammed Jalige, said he had yet to obtain details of the attacks.

“I will try and get in touch with our men there and get more details and then get back you,” he said. But he had yet to do as of the time of filing this report.