

# Plateau chief, five others killed in fresh attacks

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Governor Simon Lalong of Plateau State

**James Abraham, Jos**

Less than 48 hours after the burial of a traditional ruler, Bulus Chuwang Gyang, who was killed by gunmen in his house in the Foron community, Barkin Ladi Local Government Area of Plateau State, six persons were on Tuesday murdered by gunmen in the neighbouring Riyom Local Government Area of the state.

Among those killed during the latest attack in Wereng community were the former acting village head of Wereng, Chungyang Mwadkwon, and his cousin, Pam Bako Pwol.

Eyewitnesses said the gunmen wearing security uniform stormed the village around 9pm on Monday and shot at the victims.

A villager, who gave her name as Grace Choji said, “At first, we thought that the gunmen were vigilante members, because of the way they dressed. But suddenly, they started shooting at everyone in sight. It was then that we knew that the village was under attack.

“So, this morning (Tuesday), we counted six persons who were killed during the attack. They are Prince Chungyang Mwankwon Tengwong, a former acting head of the community; Pam Bako Pwol (Tengwong’s cousin), Davou Kwal, Linus Raphael, Mrs Vou Pam and Miss Evelyn Peter.”

The senator representing Plateau North in the National Assembly, Istifanus Gyang, confirmed the killing of six villagers during the attack.

The senator, who spoke through his aide, Musa Ashoms, said, “My people are just being killed for no reason. I just received information about a fresh attack and the killing of our people in Wereng community last night (Monday). They were six persons, who were shot dead, including a former acting village head in the community. Many people sustained varying degrees of injury and have been rushed to hospital.”

Ashoms, who described the killings as barbaric, lamented that it was unfortunate that the incident was allowed to occur despite the earlier alarm raised by the senator and other stakeholders calling on the government and the security agents to protect the citizens.

He added, “Riyom is one of the six LGAs within Plateau North Senatorial District that has consistently being under attack.

“And the senator representing the zone, Senator Istifanus Gyang, had on several occasions called on the government and the security agents to do something about it and stop these killings. But what he gets in return is an attempt to blackmail him for speaking against the killings by some people, who do not want the situation to come to end. But how can innocent people continue to be killed in their homes without anything done to stop the perpetrators?”

The spokesman for the state police command, Ubah Ogaba, said the police were aware of the attack, adding that the state Commissioner of Police, Edward Egbuka, had deployed operatives in the affected community.

*“We are aware of the attack and the killings. But the state Commissioner of Police has deployed operational command officers in the community, while investigation has commenced,” Ogaba stated.*

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