

Gunmen invade Rivers community, kill two, injure others

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There was palpable tension in Luubara, Khana Local Government Area of Rivers State on Tuesday as gunmen invaded the community and shot dead two men at a pub.

Residents expressed shock at the development, noting that the community used to be peaceful.

It was learnt that the assailants attacked the pub around 8pm after some of the residents went there to relax after a masquerader display earlier in the day.

A native of the community, Nwibani Barry, told our correspondent that four persons were shot by the assailants, two died on the spot, while the other two were taken to hospital by the Bori Divisional Police Officer for treatment.

Barry said, “I am a native Luubara community. We had our masquerader display yesterday (Tuesday) and after the celebration, most people retired to their homes, while some gathered at a place in the community, where people usually hangout.

“Around 8pm, gunmen went there and opened fire on the people; four persons were shot, but two persons, Timothy Baridapdo and Bariyaa, died on the spot, while two other girls, who sustained bullet wounds, survived and are now receiving treatment at the hospital. The Bori DPO came down to the village that took the injured women to the hospital, where they are receiving treatment now.”

Barry called on the Rivers State Government and security agencies to quickly intervene in order to forestall further loss of lives and property in the community.

He stated, “We are calling on the government and security agencies to ensure that peace reigns in our community, especially during this festive period; we don’t want such a thing to happen again.

“We are shocked by the incident that claimed the lives of two indigenes, because our community is usually peaceful; we never experienced such an incident before.”

When contacted, the spokesman for the state police command, Nnamdi Omoni, said the incident was cult-related, adding that one of the cult leaders was killed in the attack.

Omoni noted that the state Commissioner of Police, Joseph Mukan, had ordered an investigation into the incident with a view to unravelling the perpetrators and bringing them to justice.

He stated, “The incident was a cult clash that led to the death of one of the leaders of one of the groups, which operate in Luubara and Port Harcourt.

“Although no arrest has been made yet, the CP has ordered a full-scale investigation into the incident; right now, all hands are on the deck to ensure that the perpetrators of this act are arrested and brought to justice.”