

Herdsmen kill four, communal clash claims two in Benue

John Charles, Makurdi

SIX persons were reportedly killed in two local government areas of Benue State between Saturday and Sunday.

According to report gathered on Monday, two persons were said to have been killed in a communal clash which had been ravaging Gwer East Local Government Area of the state while four others were said to have been killed by suspected herdsmen in Gwer West LGA.

In Gwer East, which had been engulfed in communal crisis, locals claimed that people of Mbakume and Mbasombo in the council area had embarked on renewed clash.

One of the locals, who identified himself as Donald, explained that the renewed crisis began last week, leading to the burning down of houses, adding that two persons were killed on Saturday.

Benue State Command spokesperson, Catherine Anene, confirmed the death of two persons in the renewed communal clash.

Anene said, "There are meetings going on. Their issue (communal clash) needs a roundtable talk; the people need to sit down and talk about it because it is a lingering crisis that has been going on

"There was a time the command talked to them and they even signed some things; so, what caused the renewed crisis is what the command needs to understand, but as of now, two persons were killed. But I don't have the record of houses burnt.

In Gwer West, four persons were reportedly killed by suspected Fulani herdsmen in two council wards of the local government.

According to a native, the suspected herders simultaneously attacked Tse Shishim village and Tse Iber around Jimba and Ahumen settlement on Makurdi/ Naka/Anpka road as well as Mbaatan, Kunav in both Saghev-Ukusu and Sengev council ward of the local government area.

The native, who identified himself as Adamgbe, said the victims alongside two others had gone to the farm on Saturday to harvest food crops when they were attacked, adding that two people escaped.

Confirming the attack, Chairman of Gwer West LGA, Mrs Grace Igbabon, said the killings happened on Saturday and Sunday.

"Two of them ran and escaped narrowly while Terhembra Shishim (male) 35 years old was killed by the attackers.

"Similarly, yesterday (Sunday), armed Fulani militia again between the hours of 2 pm and 7 pm launched attacks on two villages in Gwer-West LGA and killed Teryila Agbe (male) 28 years and Torloko Adamu (male) 40 years," the chairman said.

Meanwhile, the state Police Public Relations Officer, Catherine Anene, said she had yet to receive the report of herdsmen's attack on Gwer West.

Recall that 19 people were earlier killed in Gwer West penultimate week.